

BYOD SCHEME - Essential Device Specifications

Hardware

Screen type	Touchscreen – this is essential functionality.
Screen size	This is personal preference, but we would recommend screens are a minimum of 10' so that pupils can make effective use of the tools available on a suitably sized screen.
Processor	Minimum 4 Core processor. Recommended 4 – 6 Cores
RAM	Minimum 8GB. Recommended 8 -16GB. (Minimum 3GB for iPads)
Local storage	Minimum 256GB (1TB of cloud storage is provided free via the school Microsoft account). Anything smaller and you will quickly run out of space. (Minimum 64GB for iPads)
Battery life	Battery life to last a school day having charged overnight.
Wireless Network	Dual Band 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac - ax
Keyboard	The device should have keyboard support, either built in or one that can be connected (wired or Bluetooth).
Camera	The device must have a camera - most come with cameras.
Antivirus	The device must be maintained with up-to-date antivirus software (recommendations will be made).

Operating System

The following operating systems will all work with the BYOD programme, however we would highly recommend pupils working on a Windows operating system* since all the school uses Microsoft software and services.

Windows 10 or 11* Most recent release & updates (Home, Pro, Education and Enterprise versions)

Apple iOS Most recent release & previous version only.

Software

The school's online platform is centred on the use of Microsoft 365 and therefore the Office 365 suite of apps must be installed on your device. Office 365 apps and programs are available for free (up to 5 devices) to all pupils through their school account. There will be guidance and support on this for all pupils.

Suggested Accessories

- Headphones. They will be especially useful in language lessons, for example, where listening and speaking exercises will be used regularly.
- We would strongly recommend that pupils have a protective case or sleeve for their device

BYOD DEVICE SPECIFICATION EXPLAINED

Touchscreen and stylus

Why?

Touchscreens for general purpose devices are now commonplace rather than exceptional. Be it drawing atomic structures in Chemistry, composing music on a stave, annotating and analysing maps in Geography or peer and self-assessing their work, the possibilities across the curriculum are endless and we are continuing to identify even more ways in which the technology can be used to the benefit of the learning in the classroom.

Screen size

What is a suitable minimum screen size?

Whilst screen size is a personal preference, we do believe that smaller screens do not enable students to make effective use of the tools available, especially where more than one application is being used at the same time. Screen sizes of around 10 inches would be very much at the minimum of the range that would enable effective learning in and out of the classroom.

Recommended 4 - 6 core processor, minimum 4 core.

Why?

Modern, effective learning activities require the combination of more than one type of digital tool and in lessons we may use of a range of different digital media types, including audio, video, high resolution graphics, developing applications and creating graphics. These activities require devices that are capable of carrying out activities above and beyond simple word-processing or web browsing.

Recommended at least 8GB RAM, minimum 8GB for laptops and 3GB minimum for tablets

Why?

Combining the use of more than one type of application, especially when enabling the use of rich media, requires a minimum level of RAM. Anything below 4GB will mean slow performance when making use of more than one application at the same time.

Local Storage minimum 256GB for Laptop and 64GB for ipads (1TB of Cloud Storage is provided through their school Microsoft Account)

Why?

Despite the huge advantages of cloud-based computing that the schools are using with Office 365, and the speed of access to the internet improving year on year, it is generally much quicker to work with files on local storage. Plus, many students may choose to store some files locally, such as playlists and videos, so that the device can be used offline. With

Windows devices, applications can take up a large amount of this local storage and hence the requirement for a minimum of 256 GB.

Battery life to last a school day

Why?

Our aim is to create a flexible, effective digitally-enabled learning environment where digital tools may be used for a whole lesson or simply for a few minutes, depending on how and when it is most appropriate. In order for this to work, devices should be able to be taken in and out at different times during a lesson and having to plug a device in adds unacceptable friction to the learning being carried out. Our experience is that laptop batteries become less effective over time, hence the suggestion that parents think about choosing a battery life that will last the whole school day even after two to three years of use.

Wireless Network – Dual Band 802.11a/b/g/n/ac - ax or (WiFi 6)

Why?

Most devices now come equipped with this type of wireless technology and these are the standards supported by the school's wireless network system.

Keyboard (optional for tablets)

Why?

Whilst many activities can be carried out without a keyboard (web browsing, reading, creating, watching or listening to video and audio resources) a great deal of our activities will still require large amounts of text to be entered and, at present, this can only be done safely and effectively using an external keyboard.

Camera

Why?

Developing a more digitally-enabled learning environment involves making smarter choices about how some activities are carried out. In some cases, taking a photo or creating a simple video can not only save time and make more time for higher-level thinking skills to be developed, but can be a more effective way of recording learning progress and learning outcomes.

Up to date Antivirus & Operating System

Why?

We want our students to be able to use their device safely, securely and effectively. This requires continuously updating the operating system and any associated anti-virus tools that are available and in use.

Headphones are required.

Why?

With such a range of opportunities to use audio and video on devices in the classroom to enhance teaching and learning, students will need a pair of headphones to access or create such rich media. This applies to all subjects, but in particular there are huge applications for the language subjects, where devices will come into their own for listening and speaking exercises for example.

A Protective case/sleeve is strongly recommended. (Supplied with the devices on the BT/Freedom Tech scheme)

Why?

Whilst the schools will provide support and advice on how to look after their device, a sleeve is highly recommended to protect devices from damage from the bumps and knocks it may incur in a typical school bag.