

BYOT@CHS

DETAILED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND
CARERS ABOUT THE USE OF PERSONAL
ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT SCHOOL

What is BYOT, BYOD, BYO D4L?

Bring Your Own Technology or Device for Learning is a growing trend across education and business where personally owned portable devices are used at places of employment or school.

At Clarence High School we are embarking on BYOD initially in 2014 as a pilot project and then for all Grade 7s from Term One 2015.

Technology is now embedded in all aspects of our children's lives and at Clarence High School we are committed to ensuring that students are provided with an authentic and relevant learning environment that meets their current and future technological needs.

STUDENT RATIOS

With increasing pressure on school budgets it is difficult to provide a 1:1 ratio for our students. BYOT allows students to have ready access to the technology they are familiar with at school and at home.

To be able to integrate technology into our students' lives requires more than just providing a computer that connects to the internet. For our students to become digitally literate citizens technology at Clarence is approached in four different ways: content delivery, research, presentation and creating digital products. By providing opportunities to utilise the devices at all of these levels, in all learning areas, we are preparing our students for the demands of the 21st century by developing their range of skills and technical expertise and increasing their proficiency in communicating and collaborating in an increasingly digital world.

From time to time, students will require a more high-end device when undertaking tasks such as multimedia, design or programming. In these instances Clarence High School will provide computers with higher specifications that are able to cope with the necessary processing power and applications needed for these types of activities.

ADVANTAGES

The delivery of course content online via Fronter (a virtual learning environment) allows students to access the content for each activity their teacher has uploaded and also to submit their work. It means that this work is assessed online allowing students and parents to keep track of progress.

Recent studies demonstrate that using their own device can increase student engagement as students are already connected to their device and understand how it works. The portability of their school work also allows students to access information at any time of the day that suits them. Collaboration with other students, teachers or experts, both within CHS and externally, provide experiences that would otherwise be difficult to achieve.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOUR CHILD?

Having access to a laptop or tablet during and outside of our classes will give your child access to information, applications and a variety of technologies that will enhance their learning experiences. We want our students to investigate, create and actively use the technology in ways that engage and challenge them.

Different teachers will implement and embed technology in a variety of ways and depending certain factors (learning area, teacher expertise, unit purpose) will influence the way in which the technology is used. Across each year level we have developed a plan of minimum skills and programs that students will be expected to know and use.

PRACTICALITIES

The following school policies/recommendations apply to BYOT:

1. Power and Charging Devices

Students should charge their devices overnight. A small number of outlets will be available in every classroom, however, there will not be enough for an entire class to use. We currently require students to come prepared for each class with the correct stationery and this will now include a powered-up device.

You may decide to upgrade the battery of the device you purchase. Battery capacity is described in "cells" and one cell will provide approximately 45 minutes of battery life. A six cell battery therefore will allow for the necessary capacity in one school day.

All device chargers must meet Australian Safety Standards.

2. Security

When not in use, students should store their devices securely in their locker.

All devices should be clearly labelled including any accessories such as mouse, keyboard or power adaptors.

3. Care

Students will be responsible for the care of their device. Other schools who have implemented BYOT have found that there have been very few incidents of damage to devices as students take particular care of their own equipment.

4. Transporting (including bags)

It is recommended that devices are kept in a separate bag rather than transported in students' backpacks. A hard case as opposed to a soft canvas bag will ensure that the device is protected from any impact, spills or rain.

5. Support of devices (ITS Help Desk, Student Help Desk)

We currently run a Student Help Desk that is manned regularly by students who have an interest in Information Technology. These students are able to provide help for connecting to our network as well as some advice on the use of the device. Please note that students working on the Help Desk are not permitted to operate student devices rather they will direct the owner of the device as to what they recommend to correct any issues. If an issue cannot be resolved easily we will recommend that you return the device to the supplier according to the warranty conditions.

Similarly, our IT Technicians will provide support for students to connect successfully to our network and offer limited advice. IT Support staff's primary role is to support our infrastructure as well as staff laptops and school owned devices.

PURCHASING CONSIDERATIONS

What to buy?

We have defined the following recommendations for the device you will need to supply. These **minimum** specifications are based on what we believe will allow the best possible learning experience for your child.

- 9.7 inch screen and external keyboard
- 4GB RAM (2GB will be sufficient however 4GB will mean the machine runs faster)
- 80 GB Hard Disk Drive
- Minimum 5 hour battery capacity
- Headphones

NB: Most new devices will have a touch screen and will come with a stylus or light pen or they will have an on-board touch pad. It will

therefore not be necessary for students to have a mouse unless that is their preferred method to navigate their computer.

Ultimately, what device you purchase is a personal choice. The following considerations may affect your decision:

- For high end computing such as programming, design and intensive multimedia projects the school will have a computer laboratory with the appropriate technology available
- The device must be able to connect to the DoE Guest network and all latest operating systems will be able to connect
- You should consider suitable and reputable antivirus software. Please note that on a device with Windows 8, antivirus software will be integrated into the operating system
- CD and DVD drives are not required for learning purposes (we will provide an external drive if necessary)
- How your child travels to school i.e. a heavy laptop may not be practical
- What you already have available at home
- Windows 7, Windows 8, and Apple IOS are all capable operating systems
- The device should come with a warranty. If you have an option to extend the warranty then this is a good idea

Where to buy it?

We are unable to recommend a supplier or device, however, you will find many local retailers able to offer excellent deals and service.

You may also wish to purchase a device online. Be aware of the warranty constraints in these instances.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if I don't have Internet access?

If internet is not available at home, students may download their work to their computer, work on them at home and then upload to the school internet have it assessed. There are also a variety of hotspots available in and around Hobart including the State Library where students are able to access free wireless internet if required outside of school hours.

How can my child print their work?

Printing will pose some challenges at school as devices will not have access to our IT infrastructure which includes network drives and printing. There should be less need for students to submit printed work as they will be using online tools to hand in their assignments, however, there will be a process by which they are able to print made available to them. The Department of Education is currently working on a solution for printing documents and in the interim students are able to email documents or save to SkyDrive and then print from a DOE computer.

Comment [CL1]: Ben to confirm this.

What forms do we need to fill in?

Each year both you and your child will be required to complete and sign an ICT Acceptable Use Agreement form which outlines the expectations of the use of digital products in our school.

Comment [CL2]: Trish to confirm whether anything more required.

How will you stop students from playing games instead of working?

Students will be using their devices as directed by the teacher. There will be times when the device is not required and the teacher will let students know when this is the case.

Appropriate use of student devices is outlined in the ICT Acceptable Use Agreement contract and misuse may result in the student's Wi Fi account being disabled for a period of time.

Comment [CL3]: Not sure about this section...Mary?!

What if we are unable to provide a device? Will our child be disadvantaged?

The school will have available a small pool of laptops and tablets that will be made available on a needs basis to students who do not have a device.

Students will be required to make prior bookings, collect their device from the Resource Centre and return it at the end of the day for charging.

Comment [CL4]: To confirm with L&M

Students who use the school's devices will be required to have a USB to store their work. An 8GB USB is preferable and can be purchased relatively cheaply at many retail outlets.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any more questions or require further clarification then please contact Clarence High School on 62442544 and ask for the Computing Coordinator.





Wentworth Street
BELLERIVE TAS 7018
Phone: 03 6244 2544

Email: clarence.high@education.tas.gov.au
Visit: <https://education.tas.edu.au/clarencehigh>