

BYOD: Frequently Asked Questions

What is BYOD?

Bring Your Own Device: Families select a digital device that meets our minimum specs – so it will do what we need it to do at school – but also meets the needs of the student. The device is privately owned, wireless and a portable detachable tablet, Chromebook, notebook or laptop computer.

How much will a device cost? Can it be bought from the school?

The school will not be selling devices. You can purchase your device from any retail outlet.

If we do not provide a device, will my child be able to enrol at the college?

No student will be turned away because they can't afford a device. Ideally, we want students to take ownership of their learning and to take responsibility for their own device.

Who is responsible for security and damage?

Responsibility to keep the device secure rests with the individual owner. Edgewater College, its staff and employees are not liable for any device stolen or damaged on campus. If a student would like their device stored safely at break time or during PE they may take the device to the Deans Office. If a device is stolen or damaged, it will be handled through the normal channels like other personal effects.

With all these devices around, is there going to be a problem with theft?

BYOD is happening in many schools and the reports are that theft is not an issue. Many students currently have smartphones which are much more expensive than the devices we are recommending, and we have very few problems with these too.

I'm concerned that my child will break a device, drop it or lose it?

We would hope most people would look after their expensive electronic equipment like they do with their phones. They look after it and they keep it safe. As we grow up we will be given expensive equipment and it is up to us to look after it. We would also recommend purchasing a protective case/cover for the device as well as insurance against damage.

So, you're allowed to have devices at school now? What's the difference?

Currently we have a mix of students in classes, some students who opt to bring their own device now and then, and some who do not bring a device at all. Therefore, teachers are teaching in much the same way as they have always taught – not fully committing to a digital style of teaching. Digitalisation of current teaching is happening in the classroom to a degree, e.g. the data projector, google apps and Office 365. When asked, teachers say that it's an ineffective use of their time having to plan digital and non-digital activities for students depending on device availability.

Likewise, when we asked why don't you bring a device to school, the student answer was "*Why would we, teachers don't do anything different. They still give us paper handouts, and still expect us to hand in work on paper*". That is a fair call – it's a chicken and egg scenario. We must break that cycle. Both parties would gladly move to a more digital rich learning environment, but we must get the digital one-to-one situation started.

Where will the devices be stored when they are not required, for example in PE?

The gym has storage shelving which is covered by HD video surveillance cameras, or the device may be taken to the Deans Office. When working in other areas, students always take their bags and personal belongings with them. Students will not leave their devices unattended in the changing rooms.

How will students keep up with note taking in class using a keyboard if they are not as advanced?

Devices will be rarely used for long periods of typing. Most of the information needed for the lesson will be downloaded from a cloud platform already keyed in. The learning takes place in the use of that material. Classroom device use is often collaborative and so there is a good mix of talk and data manipulation or design.

How will you stop students playing games and watching movies in class?

The school can block a large portion of online games and games that use Internet access to function. The school can identify games on the network and view whatever students have been on. Online games and downloading music and films slows the system down for everyone (as well as often being illegal).

Will my child have to sign an agreement?

Yes, all students will have to sign a Digital Citizenship Agreement. No student will be permitted to use personal technology devices unless the agreement is signed and returned.

The advantages of a student owned internet-capable device include:

- Anytime, anywhere access to class resources and support through the Cloud
- The ability to create 'digital folders' through programmes such as Google docs and Office 365
- The ability to create a personal portfolio of their own work
- Greater ability to communicate with teachers and other students through access to student email
- Anytime, anywhere access to information available through the Internet
- The ability to draft, redraft and publish work
- Increased competence in using 21st century thinking and learning tools
- Improved motivation, engagement and attendance
- Greater independence, collaboration with peers and personalised learning
- Access to rich media for communicating ideas
- Greater access to information, resources and experts and access to anytime, anywhere learning
- Greater opportunities for collaboration in wide contexts, including international ones
- Greater integration of technology and the use of digital learning tools that complement existing teaching programmes
- Improved innovation as the use of devices in the classroom evolves