

FAQs for Wirreanda Secondary School BYOD

Q. Why is WSS following a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programme?

The original laptops used in the school were bought with Government money 5 years ago. That was a one off investment and there is no way the school can sustain the cost of replacing these devices for every student. However, the focus should not be about money. At WSS, educating our students in a technology-rich environment is essential to our school foci of high expectations, innovation and improvement. All students bringing their own device is intended to facilitate rich learning experiences, enhance collaboration and communication skills as well as Digital Literacies which can be sustained at school and out of school.

BYOD has been tried and tested in many countries around the world and in a variety of situations including educational institutions, government and even business. There are also many schools in Adelaide that have decided to allow the use of BYOD. We believe that this is the best policy for students to be able to build upon the ICT skills that have been instilled through Wirreanda Secondary School.

Q. Do students have to bring a device to school next year?

From the first day of school in 2017, **all** students have been expected to have a device to learn with in every lesson.

Q. Do students have to bring a device to school every day?

Students are expected to bring their device **every day to every lesson** from the beginning of the school year. However, when timetables are established and some students are in courses such as some VET courses they may find that there are whole days when the device is not required. Only in those circumstances where for a whole day the teacher has said they would not need a device, should the device not be brought to school

Q. Can they bring any device?

Some students may have comparatively elderly digital devices. While every effort will be made to allow connection to the school network, if the device does not meet minimum specifications we may not be able to assist. Generally the school is able to support Windows 7; 10.9 (Mavericks) or later for Macs and iOS 7. Chromebooks should be on the latest version. For ease of reading, it is suggested that all screens should be a minimum of 11 inches. It has been found that screen sizes smaller than this are not conducive to effective work. All digital devices must have Wi-Fi capability (802.11n network cards are preferred). Please ensure your device has at least 2GB of free disk space and at least 4GB RAM. At the very least it should be a dual CPU machine. **The battery on the device must be able to last for the school day (a minimum of 6 hours).**

We ask that students bring devices with keyboards that can support traditional software packages. iPads and tablets are great for consuming information, but they have limitations in

creating and manipulating it. Laptop or notebook-style devices will give them the greatest benefits in supporting their learning.

Q. Will smartphones and smartwatches be allowed on to the wireless network at school?

Currently they are not allowed as they add several hundred extra devices to the wireless network.

Q. Will students be able to print from their device at school?

Yes. They can print in colour to several printers around the school. This is done wirelessly.

Q. How will the device be used at school?

Technology is heavily integrated in a lot of current teaching and learning at WSS. The level of integration would be even greater if we had all students with devices but current provision is an issue. We rely on Google Apps and Google Classroom for many of our courses, DayMap for administration and many online tools for communication and collaboration. There is a focus on the use of technology in teaching and learning in staff professional development. Between now and the end of term, there will be an even greater focus on further upskilling staff to work with students and their devices.

Q. Is there a recommended place to purchase the devices?

No. There are a range of devices available that meet our minimum specification which is detailed on the school website BYOD page.

Q. Will there be any financial assistance from the school to assist with purchasing a device?

As a public school we will make every effort to cater for social justice and allow for successful learning outcomes. We offer a stock of laptops on a first come, first serve basis that can be loaned Long Term at a cost of \$100 a year (non-refundable). Wirreanda Secondary School also has very low school fees and unlike some schools, we do not include the cost of a device in our fees. In addition, Smith family offer financial assistance to a number of students at our school.

Q. Do I have to purchase from Harvey Norman?

No. You can buy a device from anywhere. We have established a good relationship with the Noarlunga store who know what our requirements are for a device and have experience dealing with Wirreanda families. We are confident they can offer good advice and a range of devices. Other than that, the choice of where to buy a device is at your discretion.

Q. Can students share the device - i.e when several siblings from the same family attend the school?

No, this will not be appropriate. Every student needs their own device.

Q. Will the school repair my child's device?

The IT Helpdesk staff's primary focus in respect of a student's device is to ensure an effective and efficient network is maintained. However, there can be a number of factors that cause complications outside of the school's control such as viruses or third party software. Therefore, **we urge that all students are careful with what they download onto their device particularly VPN tools and where they download from such as Bit Torrent services which often cause virus issues.**

To summarise:

The School IT Helpdesk will provide information so that students can connect the device to the school's WIFI network and can print on the school network. They will maintain the network, the software and the hardware so that all devices can access the network effectively. In addition, they will ensure specialist PC rooms are of the highest standard for student use.

Q. Will the school provide software for my child's device specific to their learning needs?

The school will provide no software. Devices usually come with an operating system such as Windows. This is required. The majority of staff and students use Google Apps which is no cost. There may be specialist software you may want to purchase but none of this is required. Anti-virus software such as Norton is not required. Windows Defender is adequate for school needs. Specialist software that particular faculties and courses require will be purchased and installed on PCs in school.

Q. Will I be able to put on my own apps or programmes onto my device, other than the ones the school has asked for?

The device is your property so you can install what you wish. However, it must be appreciated that all devices using our network meet our *Acceptable Use policy* which follows DECD standards. In addition, there have been occasions where software has interfered with students working on the wireless network in school. Therefore, **we urge that all students are careful with what they download onto their device particularly VPN tools and where they download from such as Bit Torrent services which often cause virus issues.**

Q. What happens if my child does not bring the device to school?

Each student is given 10 school days of Daily Loans to access at the start of the school year. These allow for students who forget their device on odd occasions and those with technical issues to go to IT Helpdesk at the start of the day and loan a device. However, the number of days is limited to 10 and every time a device is loaned, the number of days will decrease automatically on the loan recording system.

Daily Loans need to be returned on the same day. If the device is not returned at the end of the day, the system will not allow a further device to be loaned out and after a short period, invoices will be sent to recover the cost of the device under the terms of the commitment to pay as part of the school's Acceptable Use of ICT Policy.

Students without devices either after 10 days of Daily Loans or because they fail to return a Daily Loan, will have to work on paper.

Q. What happens if my child's device is lost, stolen or damaged?

Any damage or loss to a device that a student brings to school will be the student's responsibility. **The school will not accept responsibility for any loss or damage.** The school does not own the device, support the device or provide warranty for the device. If you are concerned that the device is going to be broken, lost or stolen, we recommend you take out accidental loss and breakage insurance for the device. You may also consider using a device locator service.

The school will naturally follow through with an investigation of theft or willful damage to a student's digital device and appropriate Behaviour Management Policies will occur. If a device is stolen, you will need to make a report to the Police.

Q. Has the school got lockers or somewhere to lock the devices up during break times or when they are not needed for lessons.

Lockers are provided throughout the school.

Q. Can the device be charged at school?

There will be no provision for this in most cases but there may be opportunities in certain locations to do this. This will be at the discretion of the teacher and therefore cannot be guaranteed. All students are expected to come to school with a fully charged device.

Q. Will there be an internet filter applied when the device is used at school?

While at school, students will be restricted by the Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) filtered internet service. Inappropriate sites are blocked and the network is monitored continually. Considerable investment has been made at the school to provide a high quality firewall that is both effective and efficient in monitoring all activity.

Q. I have an old laptop, is it suitable for BYOD?

The issue is the minimum spec. provided on the school website BYOD page - in particular battery life.