



LEARNING FOR LIFE

Respect Responsibility Honesty Achievement

FAQs for Wirreanda Secondary School (WSS) BYOD

Q. Why is WSS following a BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) programme?

Education has changed drastically and this is due, in part, to the exponential growth in digital technology. Our young people are growing up in a society where the effective use of and skills in functioning in a digitally connected world are essential. Wirreanda Secondary School is committed to ensuring our students meet those needs and having their own device plays a major role in that. At WSS, educating our students in a technology-rich environment is essential to our school's focus on high expectations, innovation and improvement. By all students bringing their own device, it is intended to facilitate rich learning experiences, enhanced collaboration and communication skills as well as Digital Literacies which can be sustained at school, out of school and in future career prospects. BYOD 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 every day?

Students are expected to bring a **fully charged device** to school **every day** and **to every lesson** from the beginning of the school year. However, when 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 old digital devices. Every effort will be made to allow connection to the school network, but if the device does not meet minimum specifications we will not be able to assist. Generally the school is able to support, as a minimum, Windows 10 Home (NOT S Mode); MacOS 10.14 (Mojave) or later and any Chromebooks provided that they are on the latest software 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 4GB of free disk space and at least 4GB RAM (Memory). **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. We **DO NOT** recommend tablet devices such as Apple iPads, and Android devices such as Samsung Galaxy Tab, Lenovo Tab etc. **Mobile Phones are NOT a suitable BYOD.** Laptop or notebook-style devices will give students the greatest benefits in supporting their learning.

Q. Will smartphones and smartwatches be allowed onto the wireless network at school? There should be no requirement for a Smartphone or Smartwatch to be connected to WiFi while at school and so we currently do not allow these devices to be connected to the wireless network.

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

Yes. The school has enabled “follow me printing” and students will have the ability to print in colour or black & white to several printers located near their classrooms around the school. This is done wirelessly.

Q. How will the device be used at school?

Technology is now heavily integrated into the current teaching and learning practices at WSS with the use of the Student Portal to access all their teaching and curriculum requirements. Using Google Apps and Classroom, DayMap for lesson planning and timetables and many additional online tools for communication and collaboration, students now have the ability to learn anywhere and not just in the classroom. There is also a continual focus on the use of technology in teaching and learning in our staff professional development.

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. We have no affiliation with any retailer and so you are able to purchase a device from anywhere that meets your needs and budget.

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 that can be loaned Long Term at a cost of \$100 a year (non-refundable) and based on specific criteria and subject to our ICT Acceptable Use policy and Long Term Loan policy. Speak to one of our Senior Leaders about the criteria and how we can assist you. In addition, The Smith Family offers financial assistance to a number of students at our school.

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 ICT Helpdesk staff's primary focus in respect of a student's device is to ensure an effective and efficient network is maintained. Due to the variety of devices and specifications and the impact on warranty of new devices, the ICT staff are unable to fix or repair any damaged or faulty student owned laptops. 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 students to be 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, spyware and malware issues.

TO SUMMARISE:

The ICT Helpdesk will ensure 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 Computer 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. Staff and students use Google Apps which is at 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. Any specialist software that particular faculties and courses (such as Art or Music) 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 specified?

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

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

Each student is given access to 15 school days of Daily Loans at the start of the school year. These allow for students who accidentally forget their device on odd occasions, have a technical issue or have it in for repairs. Students can request a daily loan laptop through their Block 1 Teacher or Home Group teacher and then go to the ICT Helpdesk to borrow a loan device. However, the number of days is limited to a maximum of 15 and every time a device is loaned, the number of days will decrease automatically on the loan recording system. Additional days can be negotiated based on certain circumstances such as delays in the device returning from repairs. Students can request an extension through a discussion with the Senior Leader - Future Focussed Learning, at the school.

It is imperative that Daily Loans are returned at the end of the same day. This is to ensure that we have the maximum number of devices available to loan out each day to our students. If the device is not returned at the end of the day, the system will not allow a further device to be loaned out until it is returned. Any student that does not return a Daily Loan on the same day will not be able to loan another device for the next day and will have to work on paper. If a device is not returned after a short period, reminders will be sent out and, if necessary, 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.

Q. What happens if my 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 the school due to the issues associated with Tagging and Testing of electrical devices in the school. All students are expected to come to school with a fully charged device. If a student's device does go flat during the school day, they can request a daily loan to use for the remainder of that day.

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 for Education (DfE) filtered internet service. Inappropriate websites are blocked and network and internet traffic is monitored continually.

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

The issue is the device's minimum specifications as stated on the school website BYOD page - in particular battery life, as over time the battery life can shorten in the same manner as it does with a mobile phone and may not last the full day of activity at school.