

Frequently Asked Questions about BYOD

1. What is BYOD? Why do students need it?

BYOD stands for **Bring Your Own Device**. This means that the device is owned by the student/family and goes home with them at the end of the day. BYOD allows for anytime, anywhere learning. Many of the students in our school community already own devices and a number of our local schools already have this option in place. It allows students to save their work to the Cloud so it cannot be lost, and can be accessed from home or any other computer with Internet access. There is the potential for collaboration between students, and further opportunities and new methods for teachers to provide feedback to students. It also provides opportunities to communicate and share their learning in a way that will prepare them for the future.

Many of our students already use digital devices outside of school to communicate and learn. We have seen the benefits of integrating these with our school resources so that the potential of these devices can be used to enhance learning further and become an important part of their learning toolkit. The recent Lockdown made us very aware of the benefits of having your own device.

2. What type of device may my child bring to school?

Chromebooks are the only device we accept for BYOD as these are consistent with our school systems. Noel Leeming is our preferred supplier and they have a number of packages available at different prices.

3. Why can't my child use a smartphone as a device?

While smartphones are a great communication device and are often used for quick internet searches and photos, the size of the screen makes them unsuitable as a serious tool for learning and the ability to complete lengthy documents is limited.

4. If we do not provide a device, will my child be still able to use digital technologies?

Yes, definitely. Your child will not be excluded if they don't have a device. Ideally, over time we want families to provide a device for their child which they can be responsible for and can use at home as well. We will have a number of Chromebooks available at school that can be shared and used by students who don't have their own devices.

5. What is my son/daughter responsible for at school?

- Using all IT equipment according to our responsible user agreement.
- Displaying digital citizenship.
- Following the teacher's instructions around the use of devices.
- Charging the device at home.
- Saving work and backing up to the Cloud.
- Safe-keeping of the device when not in use.
- Carrying the device in his/her school bag or protective hard shell bag.

6. What will I need to do to set up my child's device?

Each Chromebook will need to be enrolled into the school's admin system. While your child's device is at school it will be managed by our Google Management Console to ensure the safety of your child. We have a teacher who is responsible for IT in our school who will set your child's device to our management system.

7. How will my child charge their Chromebook?

We expect students to take responsibility for the charging of devices overnight at home, and this is a good habit for them to get into. If a device is fully charged overnight at home, then it would be unlikely to need charging throughout the day. This will be part of developing your child's responsibility skills that will be taught alongside BYOD.

8. How will my child be using the Chromebook in the classroom?

We have been working with Chromebooks and especially Google Chrome, for the last few years and the number of teachers who have had a chance to teach in this environment has increased. Technology is a tool in the day to day learning of our students. Different teachers will be using it in different ways, and we encourage our staff to use online teaching and learning approaches in their programmes. Devices will be used in a way that supports the best possible approach for the particular curriculum area. Be aware that although devices will be used in different learning areas, they will not be used all day, every day, as certain topics will lend themselves to device usage more than others.

9. How will my child keep their device safe? Who is responsible for security and damage?

Taking care of their own and others' possessions is part of the NZ curriculum with regards to 'Managing Self'. We will be encouraging children to take responsibility for the care for their devices and to ensure that they are stored in an allocated location within the class. The school will not be held responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

10. How does the school ensure my child's safety when using the internet at school?

When students are connected to the school's network, via the BYOD connection, there is a filtering system in place. All students are required to participate in a Digital Citizenship programme run at school during Terms 1 and 2. Every student is required to sign a 'Responsible use of Digital Technologies' agreement before starting at Buckland School. No student is able to use their device unless the agreement is signed and returned.

11. Will I need to have internet access at home?

Chromebooks will need internet at home if in order to sync online. This will enable your child to make full use of school resources from home via our school Google accounts. If a student needs to make use of free Wi-Fi in the community, please be aware that these connections may not provide the necessary filters we have on our school network.

12. Will students be able to record teachers or classmates? (Audio or video)

Only with their permission. Any recording or photo that is on a device that does not have permission to be there will need to be removed. Every student is required to sign a 'Responsible use of Digital Technologies' agreement and the school has procedures in place if a device is being misused in any way.

13. Can students use another student's device?

Because the devices are student/personally owned, we prefer that each device is operated by the owner only.

14. Have teachers been trained in work in a BYOD environment?

Our teachers constantly upskill themselves to work in a constantly changing digital environment. Different software and applications are investigated and used by staff in order to provide the most effective teaching and learning environment for our students. In our senior school many assignments have a research/inquiry component associated with them and require digital access.

15. Who will be responsible for troubleshooting and fixing student devices?

We have a teacher who is responsible for IT in our school but he will not be required to provide technical assistance other than helping students connect to the wireless at school. Overall responsibility to repair devices will be a parental responsibility.

16. Will I still need to purchase stationery to use in class?

Yes. A stationery list will be available via our website. Having a digital device does not make Buckland School a paperless school. Many aspects of learning are still done via pen and paper, experimentation or through the manipulation of things in traditional ways. When the best way to engage students in their learning is via technology, then this will be the preferred method of delivery. Textbooks will still be used in some subjects, when others will make use of the online texts now available. As teachers increase their use of digital work, many of the tools used can be shared online and reduce the necessity to print out tasks to be handed in.

17. Will the wifi connection at the school be able to handle a large number of devices at a time? Is there a way to monitor student use of the internet?

Yes, we now have good wifi coverage in all classes and areas of the school. All students sign onto our student wifi system, this logs the students onto our network, enabling teachers to monitor websites searched and block access to internet sites and apps via our Network for Learning filtering system and Hapara Instructional Management System.

18. What does the New Zealand Curriculum Document say about IT/Digital Technologies?

Information and communication technology has a major impact on the world in which young people live. Similarly, e-learning has considerable potential to:

- assist the making of connections by enabling students to enter and explore new learning environments, overcoming barriers of distance and time;
- facilitate shared learning by enabling students to join or create communities of learners that extend well beyond the classroom;
- assist in the creation of supportive learning environments by offering resources that take account of individual, cultural, or developmental differences;
- enhance opportunities to learn by offering students virtual experiences and tools that save them time, allowing them to take their learning further.

19. What does the research say about the impact of e-learning on learning?

Noeline Wright's (University of Waikato) literature review looking at 'e-Learning and implications for New Zealand schools' highlights the following benefits of e-learning afforded by access to internet capable devices:

- improved motivation and engagement;
- greater independence and personalised learning;
- improved critical thinking and development of multiliteracies;
- greater access to information, resources and experts;
- greater opportunities for collaboration in wide contexts, including international ones.