



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE



2020 BYOD GUIDE

Overview

In responding to the educational demands of a rapidly changing world, The Melbourne Declaration on the Educational Goals for Young Australians (MCEETYA, 2008)¹ highlights the need for students to become more creative and productive users of technology. The Australian Curriculum supports these aims through embedding key aspects of ICT skills across the curriculum (ACARA, 2015)²: today's students must "learn to use ICT effectively and appropriately to access, create and communicate information and ideas, solve problems and work collaboratively in all learning areas at school and in their lives beyond school."

Educators need to provide a teaching and learning environment that not only fosters the development of foundational skills in literacy and numeracy, but also provides our students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to use information and technology to enhance other aspects of learning. Effective technology use in support of learning involves ready access to tools which enhance critical thinking, creativity, clear communication, online collaboration, feedback and sharing.

During 2016, St. Patrick's College transitioned to a "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) environment. We chose a BYOD model over mandating a designated device as we knew many families would already have a laptop or tablet which would suit our specifications. This decision was recently confirmed by a survey indicating that parents appreciate the opportunity to choose from a range of suitable devices. Using an extensive range of cloud-based educational platforms such as Microsoft Office 365 and the Canvas Learning Management System means that our teachers and students can collaborate and learn in an online environment without being tied to designated operating systems or programs.

Ultimately, we want to ensure that the use of technology enhances and supports the College's long-standing approach to high quality education. Teachers will use technology in different ways. In negotiation with students, teachers will decide when and how all devices will be used in the classroom environment. All students will be expected to use their device in a manner that is aligned with the expectations and values of the College. Students, for the foreseeable future, will require a mixture of hard and soft copies of textbooks where applicable. It is essential that students continue to handwrite notes and longer responses – this helps in the processing and retaining of knowledge.

Students will be supported to grow in their responsibility for their digital devices and the College will act, where necessary, to ensure that all students are demonstrating this responsibility. We want students to have a healthy balance between use of their devices for learning and opportunities to learn and interact without being tied to a screen. Parents can support this approach in the home by limiting screen time, removing access to screens before bedtime and ensuring devices are not kept in their sons' bedrooms overnight. We insist that students don't use their devices at recess, lunch or on public transport to support personal interaction and play. We also request that a suitable carry case be used for transporting their devices to prevent damage.

We have prepared this BYOD guide to support parents in choosing an appropriate device for your sons. "Device Selection" provides a selection of possible devices and their suitability for various age groups. The "Device Specifications" should be used to determine if a current or desired device will meet our standards. "Frequently Asked Questions" is a starting point that we hope will address some of your basic questions as we continue this journey together.

Our approach to technology use at St. Patrick's starts from a firm base in valuing the centrality of relationships in a Catholic education. We maintain high academic standards and value the importance of learning as vital to the development of the whole person. The St. Patrick's College Learning Framework, launched at the start of 2017, provides a clear focus on learning as our core business. The Learning Technology Integrator will assist teachers and students to develop and enhance their skills in effective use of technology for learning. We will continue to offer workshops for teachers, students and parents to enhance their understanding and to develop greater confidence in the effective use of technology to support learning. We look forward to sharing this exciting journey in education with you.

Kind regards,

Denise Lombardo

Director of Learning and Innovation

¹http://www.curriculum.edu.au/verve/_resources/National_Declaration_on_the_Educational_Goals_for_Young_Australians.pdf

²<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/general-capabilities/information-and-communication-technology-ict-capability/>

Device Selection

The table below has been created to assist parents needing to buy a new device for BYOD in 2020.

With tablet devices and laptop computers, whether they run Android, iOS, Windows or Mac operating systems, there is a large variation both in terms of computing power and price. For example, a high-end Mac Book Pro is more powerful than a Mac Book Air and in some cases a laptop computer is more versatile than a tablet device, however **it is not necessary to always look for the most powerful or most expensive**. Parents should weigh factors such as their sons' year group, size and weight of device and battery life when deciding on a computing device for their son. Parents should not be swayed by pressure from sons or peers when purchasing a device. The school supports your decisions, in line with the guidelines published below.

Please note: in all cases, the College does not recommend that parents purchase devices with 3G/4G capabilities/services.

	Years 5 - 6	Years 7 - 10	Years 11 - 12
Windows 10 Laptop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Surface • Other Windows laptop brands e.g. HP, Dell, Acer 	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable ^{#1}
Apple Laptop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macbook • Macbook Air • Macbook Pro 	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable ^{#1}

1. *If your son has chosen subjects in Years 11 and 12 where specialist software is used (eg Photoshop or CAD software), you may wish to consider a device with additional capabilities; the College maintains specialist computing facilities for these subject areas.*
2. *Due to the limitations of Google ChromeBooks, the College will no longer be supporting these devices.*

Device Specifications

The minimum specifications outlined below have been compiled to ensure the best learning experience for your son.

Minimum Requirements – Hardware	
Form Factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laptop or hybrid. (<u>Must have keyboard</u>)
Screen Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.7" screen size or larger
Wireless Compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5GHz 802.11n (see further explanation)
Battery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 6 hours of sustained battery usage
Minimum Requirements – Software	
Operating System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft Windows 10 minimum Apple Mac OS X 10.10 or higher
Web Browser	Your device must be able to run one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft Edge Apple Safari Mozilla Firefox
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sophos Home <i>Free for Mac or Windows</i>
Software	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft Office 365 <i>Signing in with a College email address provides free Office 365 applications and storage. Do not purchase this license.</i> There are specialty labs with other software in the college.

Other Recommendations or Considerations	
Physical Device Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silicon, leather or hard plastic case Screen protector
Warranty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 years
Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insurance coverage for accidental breakage, theft, etc.
<p>Wireless Compatibility: <i>The compatibility of your son's portable learning device with the College's wireless network is of critical importance. The College wireless network will only connect devices with 5GHz support and those supporting WPA2 Enterprise security. Devices advertised or marked as "802.11bgn" only, will NOT likely support 5 GHz and devices marked with "802.11agn" or "802.11abgn" should be selected instead. If you are unsure about this when purchasing a device, please ask your sales assistant to direct you to a device with these capabilities.</i></p>	

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to purchase one of the “available devices” listed in this guide?

No. You can purchase whichever device you like providing it meets the minimum specifications outlined in this document. Please consider the “Device Selection” section when making your decision.

The College is looking to add an online portal where suitable computers can be purchased.

Can my son just use his phone?

No. A smartphone does not meet our minimum specifications.

Why are minimum specifications required?

Analysis of a broad range of devices has shown that low-spec machines, although capable of performing most required tasks, will not perform efficiently under pressure and over a prolonged period of time, especially in regard to battery life. The outlined minimum specifications provide a reasonable baseline for performance and connectivity.

What IT support will available at the College?

The IT Department includes a purpose-built Helpdesk facility. This facility will be available to your son and can assist him with connecting to the College’s wireless network and using systems such as Office 365.

What happens if my son’s device malfunctions?

Parents are required to return the device to the manufacturer or place of purchase for repair or replacement. The College’s IT Department is not responsible for troubleshooting or repairing student owned devices. The IT Department does have a small number of loan devices which students may borrow (for one school day with a note from parents or year coordinators, or for one lesson with a note from the class teacher).

Who is responsible for the purchase and installation of additional hardware/software?

Parents are responsible for all hardware/software purchasing related to their son’s computer; the College does provide the Microsoft Office 365 Suite at no cost to students for the duration of their enrolment. Instructions to install the suite will be provided to students.

Who is responsible for storing and backing up school related files?

Students are solely responsible for the storage, management, and backing up of their own files and at no time will the College be responsible for any loss of data. Students should make use of OneDrive storage which is provided as part of the Microsoft 365 license.

My son is studying Music, Art, or Computing. Will he need a high-end device?

No. Dedicated computer facilities will still be provided by the College for media-intensive courses. We encourage the use of OneDrive cloud storage for storing large work files for these courses. This does not mean that parents cannot purchase devices with additional capabilities for their son/s, however, it is not required nor mandated by the College.

Will my son's device be covered by the College's insurance?

No. Insurance and/or extended warranty purchasing is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian. The College recommends that parents purchase additional dedicated insurance for their son's device or contact their Home & Contents insurer for advice.

Should I purchase a 3G or 4G compatible device?

No. The College cannot filter internet access via 3G/4G devices or "personal hotspots" and the use of such devices on College grounds remains prohibited. Students bringing smartphones to school will still be required to adhere to the Student Use of Mobile Devices Guidelines.

Why can't my son use his device at recess or lunch?

Young people have plenty of opportunities in class and at home to use technology. Keeping recess and lunch device-free supports interaction, talk and play. Students who need to do homework or assignments during lunch can sit in the research section of the library to use devices for educational purposes. Boys using the library at lunch are not to do so for game-playing or video-viewing.

Supporting Documentation

This BYOD guide should be read in conjunction with all other College policies and documents.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- ICT Acceptable Use Agreement
- Student Use of Mobile Devices Guidelines
- BYOD Equity Policy