



In years 5-8 all children have the option of bringing their own device to school (BYOD). They will be given their own Google account and school email, which is managed within the school Google suite.

This document is designed to answer the many questions parents often have around this.

Is it worth children having their own device?

Yes. We are always searching for ways to improve teaching and learning and BYOD allows students to shape a device to suit their individual needs and act as an efficient learning tool. By having their own device, children have easier access to it. It is more likely to be charged and they can set it up with their own preferences. They will never have to share or wait for a turn to use a device.

It is also simply impossible for a school to fund the amount of devices that students need to support their learning.

Will the children be on the computers too much and will this replace the teacher group learning?

No. Balance is the key and we are very aware of this.

BYOD will be used on a daily basis to support the learning across Reading, Writing and Maths as well as any topic or inquiry aspects. The digital devices will act as a tool to enhance student learning, but certainly won't replace group or individual teacher time in reading, writing, maths or any other area of the curriculum. There is nothing like face to face teaching and learning, dovetailing in and out with conversation and demonstration... that doesn't change.

Will BYOD distract my child and cause them to fall behind?

All teachers will still have the same required learning targets. Individual tracking and assessment will continue as always with BYOD supplementing what is already done so well. BYOD will only add to the already rich learning opportunities your child has and all learning will always be related back to the New Zealand curriculum.

Is putting an 8-11 year old in charge of a device really a great idea?

This is a perfect age to take on more responsibility. Students thrive on having ownership and responsibility of something. We teach students about caring for devices and the value placed on them. We also have expectations about how and where devices are left in our collaborative learning spaces.

Children are not permitted to use their own device outside of class times.

Only the owner of the device is allowed to use the device.

All devices are expected to be taken home at the end of the day (and charged ready for the next day).

Will students be able to access their devices at play and lunch?

No. Student devices will remain in a cabinet in the learning centre. We value the Hauora of students being outside with their peers playing and having a break from devices. However from time to time children may work inside alongside their teacher to complete work. They will still get a break during this time.

Who is responsible for the security, maintenance and charging of the BYOD equipment?

You as a parent/caregiver have overall responsibility for your child's equipment. We also discuss with students how to care for their device. A storage area in the class will be available for students to use at interval and lunch. One reason we recommend Chromebooks is because they will retain their charge for the whole day if they have been charged overnight. This is an important feature in helping us to manage devices during the day. Students take excellent care of their BYOD devices because they value the opportunity to learn in this way and don't want to lose this. If your child is not using their device it will be put away and will not be out for others to use.

How is access to the wireless system controlled?

It is managed using our wireless WiFi system. Student's devices are logged onto and authenticated into the BYOD network and will automatically log back on once they have been set up. This is a separate network from the BAS network that staff are on. Our BAS BYOD network is just for our children.

What systems are installed to prevent my child's device from accessing online games etc and downloading content? We don't want another means for them to 'waste time playing games.'

This comes down to expectations, monitoring of websites, history etc. We can only control what is happening at school and we have particular sites blocked through the student WiFi setup with our IT Service Provider and N4L. All students will be automatically connected to this.

We also use a tool called Hapara. Hapara allows us to:

- Gives teachers visibility to all devices, monitoring learner activity, while also encouraging students to be responsible online.
- Ensures learners are accessing safe materials for learning
- Gives teachers control to only have certain sites available for students.
- Outside of school hours we cannot view the device activity on Hapara, this protects privacy.

What type of device should I buy?

We have found that most children find Chromebooks very easy to use. Many of our school Chromebooks are ACER and Samsung ones and they seem to be very durable. However, any device with a screen size greater than 7 inches, 32GB and with WiFi connectability is suitable.

Devices will also need to travel to and from school in a protective sleeve/satchel. A set of headphones is also needed to help your child to concentrate and ensure that they don't disturb others when viewing and creating files that have sound.

Please note that children are not able to charge their devices at school. This is one of the reasons we recommend a Chromebook as if it is charged every night it will stay charged throughout the school day. Chargers are not to be brought to school.

What do I do once I have purchased a device?

All children who BYOD will be required to sign a Values Online Agreement at the beginning of the year. Once this is done, a unique Wifi password will be created for your child. The Tgroup teacher will then put the BYOD WiFi password into the device. The child can then login to their school managed Google account and get started working on their device.

If they already have a home login set up on the account, then they will need to set up a separate one using their school Google account information. Please note that if the device is set up with **parental controls**, then you will need to set up the account (using the details we provide) yourself. This is because the parental control setting prevents us from being able to add an account without a parent password. While at school, the device is working within all of the school internet security.