



Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

WHY BYOD?

Schools adopt **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** programs to enhance student learning by integrating technology into daily classroom activities. BYOD allows students to use a device they are already comfortable with, helping them engage more effectively with digital resources, collaborate with classmates, and develop essential 21st-century skills. This approach:

- Makes use of devices students are already familiar with.
- Supports more personalised and flexible learning, both in and out of the classroom.
- Ensures all students are prepared for the digital demands of modern education.
- Encourages digital independence and responsibility.
- Enables better use of school resources.

WHO IS INVOLVED

All students in Year 4-12 are encouraged to bring their own device to school, every day. The Department of Education (DOE) provides free Officer 365 software to all enrolled students.

SCHOOL BASED ICT FACILITIES

The school currently has computer laboratories (labs) consisting of desktop computers. These are typically used by classes when specialist software is required. There are currently desktop computers available to students in the library and portable tablet trolleys. However, Merredin College cannot sustain the provision of 1:2 personal devices and as current devices become obsolete, not all will be replaced.

SUITABLE DEVICES

You can choose a device that you already own or purchase a new or used device. **You may purchase a device from any retailer.** Second hand devices are suitable; however, they must meet the minimum specifications outlined below.

MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS

- Chromebooks are not suitable devices for BYOD as they have connectivity issues with the DOE system.
- Apple devices will connect to the school network although have limited access to some school files and folders.
- Tablets (eg: iPads) have apps rather than installed software. Apps typically have reduced features than software designed to computing devices (ie: desktop computer and laptops).
- Windows Laptops will need to have the minimum specifications below

Specifications:

- 13 inch Display
- Intel Core i3-1115G4 Processor
- 8GB RAM (recommended 16GB)
- 128GB SSD
- 720p HD Camera
- WiFi capability
- Bluetooth
- USB, HDMI, Headphone port.
- Windows 10/11 Operating System Pro
National Academic Operating System
- 8 hour battery life.

EQUITY AND SUPPORT

We understand that not all families may have access to a personal device. To ensure no student is disadvantaged, we offer a **Student Device Loan Program** for those experiencing financial hardship. School-owned devices are collected at the beginning of the day and returned at the end of the day. You may be eligible to apply on behalf of your student to be part of the Student Device Loan Program. Please contact the school to register your interest.

DEVICE PROTECTION

Students are responsible for taking care of and securing their device and accessories during the school day. Responsibility for loss or damage of a device at home, in transit or at school belongs with the student and their family. Families should consider including BYOD as part of home and contents insurance policies. It is advised that accidental damage and warranty policies are discussed at point of purchase to minimise financial impact and disruption to learning should a device be lost or damaged.

DATA SECURITY AND BACK-UPS

Merredin College staff will be supporting students with the implementation of appropriate and responsible digital protocol. Each student will learn to be responsible for the backup of all data. While at school, students may be able to save data to the school's network, which is safeguarded by a scheduled backup solution or in many cases work will be saved to the cloud when working in the Google Classroom space. Students are also able to save data locally to their device for use away from the school network.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Students will be expected to adhere to the **Acceptable Use Agreement and Student Code of Conduct**. Students and their parents sign these agreements on enrolment and are accessible on the school website.

Note: Students' use of internet and online communication services may be audited by the Department of Education and provided at the request of appropriate authorities for investigative purposes. Students are responsible for their actions while using the internet and online services.

LOADING APPS & UPDATING DEVICES

Parents and students will be responsible for overall maintenance of the BYOD. Technical support to connect to the school network is provided.

ANTI-VIRUS PROTECTION

Computers are prone to viruses or spam. It is a requirement that students protect their devices using anti-virus software. Microsoft Defender Antivirus is built into Windows10. It provides comprehensive, built-in protection, at no extra cost.