



B24 - Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy

The Covid-19 Global Pandemic brought about the necessity for students to bring their own devices into school to access learning materials safely. This requirement is no longer necessary and neither is the need for students to bring portable devices (laptops, MacBook's, Chromebooks etc.) into school.

At St. Mary's Catholic School year 7 students (September 2025) are not permitted to bring devices into school. Each additional year group that joins us will also not be permitted to bring devices into school. By September 2026 there should be no Key Stage 3 students with devices in school.

In Key Stage 4 students are permitted to bring devices into school; however, these cannot be insisted on by a member of staff and therefore sanctioned for not bringing to class. Learning should be planned for students not to require a device. The use of BYOD during lessons remains at the discretion of the teacher.

In Key Stage 5 KS5 students are expected to have a BYOD device. This will enable and facilitate effective use of independent learning during supervised study, the need for the KS5 students to engage with super-curricular study etc. Students are permitted to bring a device into school; it can be used in both lessons and private study sessions. The use of these devices will differ from subject to subject.

Where any student brings a device into school it will remain the responsibility of its owner (student) to look after it in the same way they would any other piece of equipment. The devices will not be maintained by the school's IT support department.

It is expected that where devices are brought into school, they are for the sole purpose of education enhancement.

Students and Parents/Guardians acknowledge that:

1. The school's network filters will be applied to a devices' connection to the internet and any attempt to bypass the network filters is prohibited.
2. All students involved in the BYOD program will supply their own devices and be responsible for its safety, whilst on the school premises.
3. Anti-virus software is necessary on all devices. It should be updated regularly and running at all times'
4. Students, Staff and Parents/Guardians are prohibited from knowingly bringing a device on premises that infects the network with a virus, Trojan, or programme designed to damage, alter, destroy, or provide access to unauthorised data or information.
5. Students, Staff and Parents/Guardians are prohibited from processing or accessing information on school property related to "hacking" altering or bypassing network security policies.
6. It is the choice of the individual families to insure devices against loss or damage.
7. Personal devices must be charged prior to school and run-on battery power while at school.
8. St Mary's Catholic School is not responsible liable for loss or damage of student's personal devices or cases.

Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Devices:

Each user is responsible for their own device and should use it responsibly and appropriately. The School will take no responsibility for stolen, lost, or damaged devices, including lost or corrupted data on those devices.

Devices should be stored and carried in a strong solid case/sleeve to avoid accidental damage.

Responsibilities of the school:

1. Provide a safe network structure and access to Internet that enables the comprehensive use of the laptop.
2. The school will make every effort to ensure that students understand the routines and expectations for the safety and care of the devices brought to school. Teachers will help children to identify how to keep personal devices secure, but children have the final responsibility for securing their devices.
3. Provide technical support and advise to fix hardware and software issues which can be resolved without dismantling the laptop's parts.
4. The school shall not be liable for any damages or theft occurs on the school's premises.
5. The school has purchased lockers for devices for students to store them securely and safely when not in use.

Committee: School Education Committee

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