ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

BYODD Parent Information

BYODD at St Mary's

Rationale

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School our aim is to engage and upskill learners using technology so that they are able to research, collaborate, create, communicate and use information for a range of purposes within and beyond the classroom (St Mary's BYOD Policy Nov 2016).

Bring Your Own Designated Device (BYODD) assists students to develop these skills, which greatly enhance a student's success and engagement at school. These skills also prepare students for the world of work where technological competence is essential. We aim not only to enrich student learning today, but also to enhance their future employment opportunities.

This initiative is not just about typing up essays on a device. It is about providing students and teachers with the opportunity to explore new and powerful learning possibilities across the curriculum using the amazing applications available through technology. A computer device allows students to access information instantly and to take advantage of the myriad of digital learning and communication software available.

BYODD in classes assist in redefining learning. Access to immediate technology enables our staff to prepare and present new and exciting ways of achieving educational outcomes, which were previously not possible.

ICT in the Australian Curriculum

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capabilities are embedded throughout the Australian Curriculum and skills learnt in these areas are transferable across all subject areas. The Australian National Curriculum suggests that "to participate in a knowledge-based economy and to be empowered within a technologically sophisticated society now and into the future, students need the knowledge, skills and confidence to make ICT work for them at school, at home, at work and in their communities" (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority).

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

BYODD Explained

BYODD stands for '**Bring Your Own Designated Device'**. BYODD is an ICT solution where students bring their own designated personal technology device to school to use in their day-to-day classwork.

In this context, 'device' refers to a piece of hardware that is wireless internet enabled, and has the capacity to open and edit documents, video, and multimedia files for classroom use.

The type of device that students bring to school is selected by St Mary's Catholic Primary School. By designating a device, which is compatible with the NT Schools Network, we will ensure that the devices being used by students will work efficiently with our school systems.

Advantages of a BYODD program

The main advantage of BYODD is that teachers, parents and students can be assured that they are equipped with technology that has the capability, performance and reliability that matches the high standards at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. Unfamiliar software, unfamiliar hardware, and unfamiliar workflows are real barriers to student performance.

The BYODD program will not only provide students with access to expanded global resources and content, but will also give students the opportunity to take ownership of their learning and facilitate creative problem solving.

The aim behind BYODD is to have a 1:1 student/device ratio. This will enable students to have their google account logins at their fingertips. A personal device can support student engagement and personalised learning. Students own the device and therefore are familiar with the features and capabilities. The care of equipment also increases if students are using their own device.

Implementation

In 2022 BYODD program has proven to be extremely successful for students in Years 4, 5 and 6, providing opportunities for teachers to integrate technology meaningfully into the learning and teaching program and for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

As such, this year we will be extended the program to our students in Year 3. From 2023 students moving into Year 3 will also be eligible to join the BYODD program for the start of the new school year.

Each new Year 3 student cohort will begin the BYODD program at the start of each new year.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will students use the devices throughout the school day?

A BYODD program is not about students using devices all day.

Technology will be used when needed in the course of their learning. It does not replace other ways of learning but complements and adds to a students learning style. The use of technology is an important element of the new Australian Curriculum.

Communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity are the main skills students need to develop to prepare them for a changing digital climate, at school and for their future. Through technology use in the classroom, our teachers are increasing opportunities for all of our students, providing a high level of individualised, quality education.

Students will use their devices to complete in class activities, complete homework, collaborate in real time, research for projects, access websites with curriculum-related content, keep track of classroom assignments through Google Classroom, and other approved learning activities.

The use of devices in the classroom will continue to evolve over time as students and teachers are able to optimise the advantage of their use to support teaching and learning in the classroom, wherever that classroom may be. Devices are tools that support the development of the student as an information seeker, collaborator, researcher, analyser, evaluator, problem-solver and creator. They will use technology to devise ways in which to communicate their findings and become publishers of their work.

Technology is a tool in the day-to-day learning of our students, not a special event or something separate from their everyday experiences. Different teachers in different classes will use it in different ways. Students will not be learning in a paperless or wholly online environment, they will be using technology in classes to support the best possible approaches to rigorous teaching and learning.

What device will be required under BYODD?

We require that each student possess a device from one of our designated devices on the St Mary's approved list (included in this pack). The selection of these devices is based on their proven reliability, compatibility with our NT Schools software imaging, and excellent performance in schools. All devices selected are education model devices, made specifically for schools to meet student needs.

Why can't we bring 'any' device?

Essential we need to ensure that the device is capable of doing what our teachers and students need it to. Having a standard device across St Mary's helps prevent disruptions to learning resulting from failures or incompatibilities due to equipment that is too old, slow or lacks the necessary components.

If families choose to go with an alternate device other than those specified the school will be unable to provide imaging services or support for hardware or software issues that may arise. For these devices access to the school's wireless network will be provided, however we are unable to guarantee that it will be compatible with the school's network.

Where can we purchase the designated device from?

Edunet has been chosen as the preferred partner and supplier in establishing BYODD at St Mary's. Edunet is an Australian owned business, based in Victoria. Edunet is committed to providing quality technology solutions to students and high quality service to families.

Edunet offers families a 3 Year On-Site Premium Support Warranty. This means that devices that have this Warranty upgrade can be repaired on-site at the school, with minimal delay. Devices purchased elsewhere usually have a standard 'back to base' warranty, which means the laptop may need to be sent interstate to have it repaired.

Edunet has developed a purchase portal for St Mary's Catholic Primary School to help families with buying a device (See attached information).

Where will the device be delivered?

To save on shipping costs, the devices will be delivered to St Mary's Catholic Primary School. Once they arrive, families will be notified and the devices can be collected from the school office. Minimal set up is required, the devices will be ready for use in the classroom.

Can we buy the designated device from any supplier?

Families can source the specified device from any supplier. However, by purchasing through ANY supplier, you will need to ensure that the laptop is of the correct type and model, and has the exact operating specifications to ensure that is compatible with the NT Schools network. The chosen devices are specific educational models and therefore are not available at major retail suppliers.

Also, be aware that many sellers do not supply the 3 Year On-Site Premier Support Warranty with the devices. Therefore, while the advertised price may be initially attractive, the true cost may be significantly higher once a 3 year warranty is purchased.

Furthermore, many suppliers only offer 'back to base' warranty. This may mean that the laptop may need to be sent interstate in order to have it fixed. This would be a significant interruption to your child's education. Therefore, please ensure that you check that this is included within your bundle when comparing prices and when considering purchasing the device from an alternate supplier.

Can we purchase a second hand machine?

Yes, as long as the device has the exact same specifications as those listed on the St Mary's approved devices list. However, this device will not come imaged with the NT Schools network and we cannot guarantee that it will be compatible with our network.

Please note that second hand devices, dependant on age and condition, may have a limited life span, and/or require greater maintenance than a new machine. Furthermore, battery life can also be reduced in older laptops. Students would need their laptops to hold charge for approximately five hours per day.

What options are available for families who cannot afford the designated device?

In cases of financial hardship, St Mary's strongly urge families to come and discuss their circumstances with the school Principal. We are committed to supporting students who cannot participate in the program and have a few options that can be discussed and considered on a needs basis.

Why does the NTSchools Image need to be installed onto the device?

There are many benefits of using the NTSchools image:

- Provide greater learning flexibility and access to resources as students will be automatically connected to the whole St Mary's School, network allowing seamless access to all these resources from home and at school.
- Provide access to anti-virus software (Windows Defender) and automatic updates.
- Provide access to the full suite of Microsoft Office 365 products.
- Provide access to Microsoft educational apps at as well as a range of educational resources.

The device will arrive already imaged to the NTSchools network.

It is important to point out that the device will need to be formatted to remove the NTSchools image from a student's device before they leave the Northern Territory Education School system. If students are continuing it is highly recommended that any personal programs and data are backed up before this occurs.

What else do we need to purchase with the device?

The following have been selected as items that are compulsory and optional extras that need to be purchased with your child's device.

Compulsory accessories:

- NT Schools device imaging (this connects the device to the NTSchools network and provides them with all the software and learning tools they require)
- Protective hard case to reduce the risk of a broken screen (avoid soft laptop sleeves as they provide very limited protection from damage)
- Personalised Device skin (this helps to identify the student devices and is branded with the St Mary's logo and your child's name)
- 3 Year On-Site Premium Support Warranty

Optional accessories:

- Mouse

Please note that we strongly encourage all families to include some form of Accidental Damage protection that Edunet offer when purchasing your child's device. Please also check your home contents and personal insurance policies carefully if you are considering coverage under your existing insurance policies.

Will there be specific software that needs to be purchased?

No. The NTSchools image provides all the required software that is needed. Students will also be provided with access to the required Google Suite products which is managed by St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

If there is a problem with the device how will it get fixed?

If the device has the 3 Year On-Site Premium Warranty, the device can be repaired by an approved Technician during schools hours, and on school grounds. Please note the school is simply providing a workspace for the computer to be repaired. St

Mary's is not involved in any part of the repair process. The technician is not employed by the school. If the device does not have this level of cover, it may need to be sent interstate to have the device repaired.

What will the school's ICT support be able to do with the devices?

St Mary's Catholic Primary School's ICT support are not permitted to repair any BYODD device. However, they are permitted to assist students in connecting to the school's NTSchools network or troubleshooting any difficulties associated with this network or updates. This support is available twice a week. They can also assist by helping families determine whether the device needs to be repaired through warranty.

What happens if my child's device is lost or stolen?

Any damage or loss to a device that a student brings to school will be the student's responsibility. The school will not accept responsibility for any loss or damage. We strongly encourage families to consider purchasing insurance and/or extended warranty of the device.

Can the device be charged at school?

Yes – however, charging must be kept to a minimum. Students should make sure their device is fully charged, before the start of each school day. Most devices should last 5 hours without needing to charge. Devices can only be charged at school using the spare charges provided by St Mary's.

Where will the devices be stored when not in use?

When in class student devices will be stored in a designated area. When students are not in class, their devices should be stored in their bags in a protective case. They should not leave their bags/ unattended at any time, and be aware of leaving their bag in places where their bag may be damaged.

Will there be an internet filter applied when using the device at school?

While at school, all student internet use is restricted and monitored by the NT Department of Education, sites deemed inappropriate, such as, social media or online shopping are blocked by the Department without a need to install any software on a student's device. Devices that are imaged to the NTSchools network will experience a more stable internet connection.

Will I be able to install other apps or programs on to my child's device, other than the ones the school has asked for?

Yes. Parents and students are allowed to install their own apps and programs on their devices. These are at the discretion of parents and students. However if these apps begin to impede the learning of a student St Mary's reserves the right to have aforementioned apps or programs removed from the device.

Do students have to bring their devices every day to school?

Yes. The device is part of a student's equipment set for learning. Students are expected to bring their device fully charged to school every day. Families of students in Year 3 and 4 may choose for students to keep their devices here at school. If this is the case, please advise your child's teacher in writing. Devices will be sent home during the school holiday period.