

NSW Department of Education

BYOD Frequently Asked Questions



What is BYOD?

BYOD is a program whereby students will be able to bring a familiar personal device to school to use as their primary technological device. The school can provide the ability to connect compatible devices to a filtered internet service.

What will be provided by the school?

The school will provide access to a filtered Wi-Fi internet service. No other support, software or service will be provided by the school. Note: schools who provide student-device access to the network via an Ethernet cable are operating outside DEC network security guidelines. This is beyond the scope of the BYOD policy, guidelines and student agreement.

Who pays for the technology brought to school?

These devices will be purchased by and remain the property of the family.

What types of computing devices may my child bring to school?

Students may bring devices such as laptops, netbooks or tablets. However your local school may have a select list of devices that are acceptable. Please be aware devices such as Nintendo DS and Sony PSPs are considered gaming devices and are not part of the BYOD program.

Will there be a permission form that needs to be signed before a student brings their own device to school?

Yes parents will need to sign the BYOD agreement before students can use the device within the school.

How will theft, loss, or damage of a personally owned device be handled in a school?

The guidelines for the BYOD program specifically address the risk of students bringing their own devices to school. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

Will I need to have Internet access at home?

No. It would be helpful, however, to have some form of Internet access (wired or wireless) in order for a child to make full use of school resources from home, as well the multitude of resources available on the World Wide Web. But, it is not required in order for a child to use a personal computing device at school. In addition there are many providers of free Wi-Fi in the community that students could use to access the internet outside of school hours. Please be aware that these connections do not provide access to a filtered internet experience as experienced on the schools network

Will the wireless access be filtered?

The wireless Internet access available to students will be filtered in the same way that access is managed at present. If students connect using their 3G or 4G connection then this will bypass the filtering, this is not covered by the BYOD policy.

Will there be technical assistance provided to access the wireless network or to assist with the use of BYOD devices?

Since there are literally hundreds of devices that could be brought to school as part of the BYOD program, there is no technical assistance provided other than providing the name of the wireless connection. Students will be expected to know how to connect their devices.

Will students be able to recharge devices during the school day?

Students should not have the expectation that they will be able to charge devices at school. Many school buildings do not have the capacity to handle additional electrical demands for charging personally owned devices.

Will students be able to record teachers or classmates (audio or video)?

With the permission of the teacher, students can make recordings.

Can teachers require students to bring their own devices?

No. Students are not required to participate in the BYOD program.

Will students be able to use their devices before or after school? During lunch?

Each school will determine which, if any, locations other than the classroom setting that personally owned devices can be used during the instructional day.

Does the school provide insurance for damage, loss or theft?

No. We do however recommend taking out insurance to cover these eventualities.

Can students use another student's device?

Because of the inherent nature of personally owned devices, devices should only be used by the owner of the device. Usually, having physical access to a personal device also provides the ability to email from the device.

Have teachers been trained to work in a BYOD environment?

Teachers will have access to support resources to assist with the implementation of a BYOD program in their classroom. There are also BYOD Trailblazers across the state who are assisting with the implementation of a BYOD program

Is the use of 3G allowed within the school day?

The BYOD policy only covers the connection of devices to the school WiFi. It must be reinforced that if students use their 3G or 4G connection they will not be receiving filtered access to the internet.

As a parent, am I required to add additional software (virus protection, filter, tracking device etc.) to my child's technology tool?

Yes. All applicable devices that connect to the internet will need to have antivirus software installed.

How will these devices be used in the classroom?

Students will use their devices for a variety of activities which will vary from class to class. Activities may include (but are not limited to): complete in class activities, collaborate in real time, research for projects, accessing websites with curriculum-related content, keep track of classroom assignments, and record journal entries and other approved instructional activities.

I don't have an electronic communication device that my child can bring to school. Will my child be penalised or miss out on instruction?

No, it is not mandatory for students to bring a device, even if they do own one.

Will teachers be responsible for troubleshooting and fixing students' devices?

Since there are literally hundreds of devices that could be brought to school as part of the BYOD program, there is no technical assistance provided other than providing the name of the wireless connection. Students will be expected to know how to connect their devices.