

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Information

The number of students who bring their own Wi-Fi enabled device to school is increasing. The teaching and learning opportunities that present when students have an ICT device that can be brought to school are also increasing. In recognition of this reality and to best prepare our learners for the world that they will live in, we have invested heavily in school infrastructure that enables students to connect to our network whilst at school.

As part of this all students are required to have access to a device throughout the school day. In most cases this will be a student owned (BYOD) computer. We will have provision to support families with day loan devices for those who are temporarily unable to bring a computer so this does not pose a barrier to learning/participation. More information about this will be available at the information evenings.

BYOD specifications

If your son already owns a device, then it is likely we will be able to accommodate it. However, not all devices are suitable and if you are at the stage of purchasing a device for your son then the following specifications will ensure that the device you buy can best support the intended learning outcomes and classroom use.

The school provides access to various learning applications which work best on a PC or Mac laptop. With the software that the school provides, a laptop (not a Chromebook) is best suited for learning in lessons. The decision between the type of laptop to purchase or use involves considering weight and portability as well as functionality.

Recommendations

We do not specify one particular laptop model as this means there is a wider choice of models and generally at a cheaper cost to parents/whānau. If you go into a store, use the following criteria to help choose a laptop.

- Long-life battery with the ability to work through the day without the need for repeated recharging
- Wi-Fi capable
- Minimum 10-inch screen. Large screens, although attractive, are heavier and have a shorter battery life
- A minimum of 4GB RAM and a 1.3Ghz Processor (or higher)
- USB-2 sockets to allow connection to other devices provided by the school
- Camera to enable video recordings

We often get asked for the details of higher-end machines. There is no need in junior school for a high-specification machine. We do strongly recommend ensuring that the laptop is insured, either by your home contents insurance or via an insurance scheme through the company selling the laptop.

Smart Phones

Although smartphones are more powerful than older computers, they are not suitable as the main learning device at MBC. They are only to be used when explicit permission has been given, e.g. to video an experiment or activity. Mobile phones will be confiscated if used in class without explicit permission from the class teacher.

Software Recommendations

One of the many benefits of BYOD is the fact that we can provide for free, or for a subsidised cost, software that would otherwise be too expensive for parents and students to purchase outside of school. By enrolling at MBC your son will gain a license to the entire Office 365 suite. This can be installed on up to 5 computers in the household, so the family also benefits. If, when purchasing your laptop, a salesman tries to sell you Office 365, please do not purchase it.

In term 4 we will email details on how to download key software (including Office 365) along with details of how to start accessing school systems. This will mean that your son will arrive better prepared for the start of the 2023 school year.

We are proud to use both Microsoft and Google Apps For Education as our dual platforms for teaching and learning.

Further information

Should you have any questions you can contact Dr Eliot Attridge (Director of Innovative Learning & Head of Science) at eliot.attridge@mbc.school.nz