Hastings Christian School
Secondary BYOD Policy

HASTINGS
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

We are in an age where the use of technology is an integral part of everyday life and this includes education. Students now need a personal, rather than a shared device as part of their learning. However, while the device is important, at HCS the focus is always on learning rather than the device. Devices are needed for different purposes and used in many different ways dependent on the learning goals for each lesson. Our staff recognise the important role that digital technology plays in engaging our 21st-century learners, accessing information, and collaborating and sharing with others. Therefore, we are committed to allowing responsible use of personal devices at school so as to provide as many pathways to understanding as possible for all our students

We operate on a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) environment for all our secondary students. The school provides a wireless network which students connect to, providing filtered internet access and printing.

All students are required to bring an internet capable device to school every day. The requirement is that the device is either a laptop or a Chromebook. The school provides all students with the full Google for Education suite of apps. Also, staff regularly set work and homework using Google Classroom. Google Classroom is also the platform we use for any on-line learning. Other software, including virus protection needs to be purchased individually and will depend on subject choice.

Having a device suitable for teaching and learning is a requirement for all our students. While devices will not be used in every classroom every day, they have become an essential tool in the delivery of the curriculum. Learning to work in a digital environment is an essential skill that students need to develop as they move through secondary school. Using a device at school also comes with some responsibilities and restrictions. Students are to only use devices as directed by their teachers and only during class time for learning purposes. We do not permit personal or recreational use at any time while at school. Any use of a device outside of class hours, including before school, interval, lunchtime or after school, unless approved by and supervised by a teacher is forbidden. While most devices are powerful tools for learning they can also be sources of distraction and vehicles for bullying. We expect our students to use their devices in a way that honours the Christian character of the school. This includes respecting others, putting others first, obeying authorities and being good stewards of our time.

When purchasing a digital device for your children, you should consider carefully a number of specifications that need to be met. Below is a list of specifications:

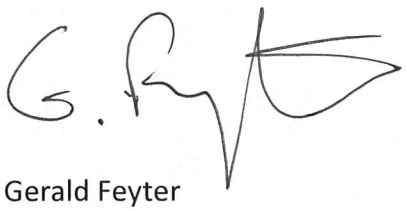
- Batteries should last at least 6 hours to be able to get through a school day without recharging. We cannot guarantee rechanging at school.

- The device should be light enough to carry around all day, anything more than 1.5kg including the case might be too heavy.
- Screen Size - 11" with a resolution of 1366x768 is the minimum for use in the classroom to avoid eye strain.
- Wireless capable
- Be powerful enough to run all the required apps. Old hand-me down laptops or tablets will not be suitable. For laptops a minimum of an Intel i5 or AMD A10 processor with 8GB RAM. This is the same for Chromebooks but with 4GB RAM.
- Hard Drive – SSD hard drives are the only hard drives suitable for use in a school environment.
- Robustness – Your device should be strong enough to survive a low fall onto a hard surface and be caried in a case or product specific protective bag
- Anti-virus Software – Anti-virus and anti-spyware software is essential to protect the data on the device, and prevent the device being used to spread this malware to other devices at home or at school.
- Have the latest operating system and browser installed.
- NZQA also has a list of minimum specifications for student laptops to run their digital exams. The above specifications will meet their requirements. It is still recommended that you go to Readiness Check with the laptop being used for the exam.

While most internet capable devices are suitable for use in the classroom mobile phones are not considered an appropriate tool for the classroom. They are not be used at school at any time and preferably left at home.

Please contact the school office if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,



Gerald Feyter