



Dear Parents/Carers,

Biddabah PS has been running its BYOD program for Stage 3 students since 2015, with increasing parent and student engagement each year.

Each Stage 3 teacher develops programs for student to use their devices daily and for this reason it is vital that each student brings their laptop to school every day, charged and ready to be used.

These are just a few of the ways in which Stage 3 students are utilising their laptops in our BYOD classrooms:

- as part of their everyday digital literature studies
- the drafting, editing, revising and publishing of writing
- inquiry learning is a critical component of learning for senior students and devices are invaluable for use as a research tool
- to access to Google Classroom, our daily learning platform and assignment base
- the use of Powerpoint and other publishing software to present work
- introduction to coding
- access of Mathletics during maths lessons

We understand some families are unable to provide a device for their Stage 3 student due to financial hardship and we encourage you to contact Mr Gately directly to discuss this in a confidential manner.

We have put together a list of minimum requirements and considerations to assist you in making your decision. Students have free access to Microsoft Office 365 through the Department of Education and this, along with internet access at school, will be setup early in 2024 by Mrs Bradshaw, our school's IT Specialist Support person.

We would prefer you not buy a Chromebook if possible please. If you are considering purchasing a Chromebook for your child please keep in mind that these devices are not able to have Microsoft Office software installed on them which leads to challenges for students when it comes to storing and printing their work. Chromebooks access an online version of Office which poses some problems for use in the classroom. A Windows device is preferable over an apple laptop for similar reasons.

Kind Regards,

2023 Stage 3 Teachers

BYOD Device Considerations/Recommendations

Wireless connectivity:

Devices must support 2.4Ghz/5Ghz dual band wireless.

Operating system (can be either macOS, Windows):

Windows 10

macOS (Apple)

Software:

DoE Policy is that ALL connected devices have current anti-virus software (DOE does provide access to free anti-virus software for students if required).

Office – Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote.

Note: These are available FREE through the DoE website to all NSW students as Microsoft 365. Please assist your child to download and install this at home.

Battery life:

A minimum of 6hrs battery life to last the school day.

Memory and RAM:

For Chromebooks at least 16GB Storage but it is recommended for students to have 32GB devices or higher if working offline for long periods.

Windows devices will require at least 128GB hard drive storage.

A minimum specification of 8GB will be highly beneficial, as many current programs require faster operating speeds.

Further Considerations:

- Minimum of 2 USB ports
- Solid state drive vs hard drive
- Size of the screen
- Wireless mouse
- Compatible headphones
- Tech support – BPS will provide wifi and software support but we are not able to perform repairs or maintenance
- Casing: Tough and sturdy to avoid breakage
- Weight: Lightweight for ease of carrying
- Durability: Durable and strong
- Carry case: Supply a carry case or skin to protect the device
- Insurance and warranty: Be aware of the terms of insurance policies/warranties for the device. The school will not accept responsibility for any loss, theft or breakage.

***** Please contact the school office if you have any questions and they will forward your details to our Technology Team to assist you further *****