

BYOD - Information for Our Parent Community for 2019

We have covered most of the questions that our parent community have about BYOD in a Question and Answer format. If you reach the end of this page and still have more questions, then please contact the school on **9817 4565** or huntershd-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

What is BYOD?

It means Bring Your Own Device. Hunters Hill High School has introduced a **mandatory** BYOD Policy for Year 7 from 2019. Students will bring a computer and earphones to school every day. This will enable students to learn and work using 21st century methods. They will learn to become digital citizens.

We will require your child to bring home a paper form (or you can print out from the school website) called the **HHHS BYOD Program – User Charter and Permission Form** for you to sign which acknowledges **your permission** for them to bring a BYOD to school, and sets out the conditions for use of the device at school. Your child should return that signed form to their Mentor Group Teacher.

For all other Year groups, BYOD is optional but we strongly encourage students to choose to bring a device. These students should also have a current **HHHS BYOD Program – User Charter and Permission Form**.

What sort of device should my child bring?

We need students to bring a device that has a keyboard and a screen and that can connect to our **dual-band** school network. It also needs to have a port for earphones. We have set a **minimum standard** of a Chromebook – which is a simple form of laptop that runs the Chrome operating system by Google. It requires little or no software maintenance and will enable students to work with online applications, and store their work in the cloud.

Will a Chromebook be sufficient for learning at school?

Our advice to parents and carers that the minimum requirement for BYOD is a Chromebook is founded in our respect for parents, carers and their families, as well as the budget commitment needed, especially in the case where there are multiple children involved. Our advice is also founded in our educational requirements. For nearly every learning activity the Chromebook will be suitable for purpose. The power and speed of a Chromebook is good enough for the main activities of browsing, writing and editing text-based documents. We know this because we have been using class sets of them with our students for some time. When students need more power for graphics-intensive applications like Photoshop or 3D CAD applications, we have computer labs for that purpose.

What if my child already has a laptop that isn't a Chromebook? Can they use that?

Yes they can. We do need it to be able to connect to our school network. Many computers will connect to our network without difficulty. We will provide your child with the information and some technical support to get connected. If the computer they already have doesn't have the right Wi-Fi network equipment to connect to the school network, you can purchase a USB Wi-Fi adaptor. We can provide advice to help your child do this. We have limited stocks of these adaptors that we can loan to help your student connect until you can buy one.

If your child has a tablet such as an iPad and wants to bring that, they just need to add a Bluetooth keyboard to go with it.

Can I buy my child a more powerful computer than a Chromebook?

Yes you can. Your child may need a more powerful computer for other things they are involved in, so you can buy or use something more powerful. That choice is up to you.

Can my child use a phone as their learning device?

No, a phone is not a suitable device for classroom learning. A tablet with a keyboard will be acceptable, but not a phone.

Do I need to insure my child's computer?

We urge all parents to insure the computer against theft or damage. The school does not accept liability for any damage or loss.

Where can I buy a BYOD?

Hewlett Packard (HP computer manufacturer) has provided HHHS with our own customised portal to enable you as a parent to buy a device for your child. The packages can include 3 years protection coverage – the terms are explained on the portal. These devices range from Chromebooks up to quite advanced laptops, and they are business-grade devices. They will connect to our network. They will generally be more robust than devices from most retailers. HP also enable payment plans for the convenience of parents. The link to the portal is here:

www.hpshopping.com.au/huntershillbyod

Do I need to buy software for my child's device?

If you choose a Chromebook, no software purchases are needed. For Year 7, we will be using Microsoft OneNote Class Notebooks and Microsoft Teams to provide learning resources for your child, via the Department of Education student portal. This gives your child free access to Microsoft Office 365 (the online versions) as well as Google G-Suite for Education.

If you choose to purchase a conventional Apple or Windows laptop, it is recommended that you purchase some Anti-virus software to protect against viruses and ransomware. Antivirus software is included in the Chrome operating system of Chromebooks.

Who is responsible for the care and maintenance of my child's device?

We encourage our students to take good care of their devices and to handle them gently, but the school is not responsible for damage or loss, even when caused by another student.

Are there any rules about how my child's device is used?

Yes. Students will receive introductory training on appropriate use of the devices at school, and they will be learning digital citizenship skills throughout their time at school. The **HHHS BYOD Program – User Charter and Permission Form** that they ask you to sign sets out a form of Code of Conduct for use of computer devices – both their own device as well as school-owned devices. There are also rules that every student must follow that are designed to protect the safety of all children at our school and beyond.

Should I label my child's device?

Yes. Label it where the label won't wear off. If the device is found in the school we need to be able to quickly return it.

What if my family is in temporary financial distress and we can't afford a device?

We may be able to help with a temporary loan device, but we would appreciate it if you would come and see us so that we can make suitable arrangements. Please call to make an appointment with a Deputy Principal.

What should I do if I think my child is being cyber-bullied?

Please contact the school at your first opportunity to discuss such a matter with a Deputy Principal. The Department of Education has clear policy guidelines on the treatment of this form of online behaviour.