

Whangamatā Area School BYOD Device Guide

Students of Whangamatā Area School will need a device that is suitable for typing and editing documents and accessing and using internet resources and tools. The following is a guide as to the minimum specifications required of a BYOD for Whangamatā Area School.

The specifications are based on the student having a **Tablet PC (Smart PC), Laptop or Netbook**. It is our belief that these devices will provide students with a comprehensive learning tool, and will be ideal as an ***information & content creation device***.

	Recommendations	Checklist
Operating system	A device with a full operating system, either Windows or Mac OSX, would be appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wireless	Wireless capable – preferably 802.11n Wi-Fi standard as this gives the right speed and future proofing.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Screen size	It is recommended that the device has a screen size of at least 11.6”, in order to create and edit documents.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Battery	Have at least a 6 hour battery life to ensure that the device is fully operational throughout the school day.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Browser	Must be capable of running the most recent version of Google Chrome.	<input type="checkbox"/>

** A Tablet will provide students with a **limited** learning tool and we envisage it would be used as an ***information consumption device*** (reading). The Google Drive Apps for Education that Whangamatā Area School is using with the students has limited functionality on a Tablet touch screen device like an iPad and Android tablet. If an iPad is purchased, extra expenditure on apps is required to enable the necessary subject software to run.

Type of digital device	The strengths	The weaknesses	Summary	Specs and Costs
<p>Laptops and Notebooks</p> <p>The type of portable computer that you're probably most familiar with. Laptops usually have a screen size of 14-15.6" with a few smaller or larger models.</p> <p>These provide a good versatility for students.</p> <p>HP, Lenovo and Toshiba are recommended brands.</p>	<p>A full-functioning device that is capable of performing a wide range of tasks that a student would require from web browsing, creating and editing documents, email and using specialized software e.g. Photoshop.</p> <p>High quality laptops are capable of photo and video editing.</p> <p>The larger screen and fixed keyboard size means that they are suitable for extended periods of input.</p> <p>Able to run specialized software programmes such as Photoshop and Final Cut Pro.</p>	<p>Usually heavier and larger than other devices.</p> <p>Additional software (e.g. Microsoft Office, anti-virus, Adobe Photoshop, Final Cut Pro etc.) costs significantly more than apps for tablets.</p> <p>* Google Apps for Education currently deployed at school.</p> <p>It takes a lot of power to run bigger screens and therefore, battery life isn't as good.</p> <p>There is no rear-facing camera on a laptop (just a front-facing webcam) – this requires you to use a separate device if you want to capture video.</p>	<p>A notebook/laptop is suitable for the widest range of tasks that students will encounter.</p> <p>However, there is also a wide range of price and quality available not all devices are created equal!</p> <p>Devices ranging from \$700-\$2000 run reasonably quickly, and laptops approaching \$2000 can be used for photo editing and video editing.</p> <p>We envisage that the majority of our students using these devices in the classroom.</p>	<p>Entry level 2 to 4GB RAM, 500GB Hard Drive, 1.6 - 2 Ghz processor</p> <p>Mid - High level 8GB RAM, 1 TB Hard Drive, 2 - 2.4+ Ghz processor</p> <p>\$400 - 2000+</p>
<p>Ultrabooks and Chromebooks</p> <p>This is a new category of laptop computer, which replaces the old Netbooks. Usually with screen sizes around 11"-13". This is an attempt to combine high-powered components with ultra-portability.</p> <p>The MacBook Air is a popular example in this category, as is the Asus Zenbook and Samsung Chromebook.</p>	<p>Screen size is small enough to be portable, but large enough for extended use.</p> <p>Thin form factor (<10mm - 20mm). Very light (1-1.5kg).</p> <p>Often these models include a Solid State Drive (SSD) which, although small in capacity, is very fast. Instant on and resume.</p> <p>Superb battery life.</p> <p>Almost all of the software is free and cloud based (e.g. word processing, spreadsheets) 100GB of free cloud storage with a Chromebook.</p>	<p>No built-in DVD/CD drive. External USB drives can usually be purchased separately if required.</p> <p>Hard drives are usually small in size (you are dependent on cloud storage).</p> <p>Unable to install specialized programmes such as Photoshop and Final Cut Pro.</p> <p>Chromebooks need Wi-Fi to function – there is very limited off-line functionality and therefore Wi-Fi at home is essential.</p>	<p>An excellent compromise between portability and versatility. You get a full sized laptop with the speed and battery life of a tablet.</p> <p>Chromebooks have been successfully adopted by schools in NZ recently.</p>	<p>\$350 - \$2000</p>

<p>iPads, Android or Windows tablets</p> <p>A tablet is a device that is similar in design to a smartphone, except it has a much larger screen (usually around 8 to 10").</p> <p>Tablets don't fold like a laptop and don't have built-in keyboards, but do have touch screens. A typical device in this category is the Apple iPad.</p> <p>Note: There are some Android tablets that lack many features of a regular tablet. Please check with the retailer before buying.</p>	<p>Lightweight, small and portable. "Instant On" a tablet is instantly ready, without requiring a boot-up or logon process.</p> <p>Cheap apps - an application is often free or less than \$5 to purchase and easy to install. There's normally an app for almost everything that you need to do!</p> <p>Superb battery life that will easily get students through the day.</p> <p>Can be cheaper than a laptop.</p> <p>MS Windows 10 devices tend to come with a keyboard.</p> <p>HD cameras and microphones make them superb devices for being creative.</p>	<p>You cannot plug a USB flash drive into many tablets to copy a file on or off the device.</p> <p>File transfer needs to be done via e-mail or a Cloud based solution.</p> <p>The size of the screen can be limiting.</p> <p>Tend to lack a built-in keyboard, however third party accessories (Bluetooth keyboard) can be purchased to help with this issue.</p> <p>A tablet is not equipped to run all of the applications that a laptop can run (e.g. Photoshop).</p> <p>iPads cannot run Flash, which some websites rely on (e.g. Mathletics).</p> <p>Some other tablets can (e.g. Android).</p>	<p>Tablets are great for instant access to web browsing and e-mail. Apps can provide a wealth of different and unique functions. However, a tablet should not be considered the equivalent of a laptop.</p>	<p>\$300 - \$1500</p>
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