

Laptops for Learning (BYOD) Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know what laptop is suitable for school?

Your laptop does not need to be fancy. It just needs to comply with the following specifications:

- Wireless connectivity
- Most recent operating systems available (or preceding version)
- A minimum of 4GB RAM and 128GB spare storage is recommended
- 14-16 inch screen or above, with sturdy keyboard for continuous use throughout the day
- Minimum 5 hour battery life (you are responsible for charging your own device)
- Sturdy case and consider weight of device as you will have to carry it around all day

Our school has an arrangement with HP to provide students with access to appropriate laptops for learning at discounted prices. To find out about the devices available and their prices visit our [HP Portal](#). You will need to use our code **CallaghanC** to make a purchase.

I already have a laptop at home - can I bring this to school?

Yes, as long as it meets the device specifications above.

Can the device be charged at school?

Most of our learning spaces do not have the capacity to charge multiple devices. Students should make sure their laptops are fully charged every day. It is recommended that devices should last at least 5 hours without being charged.

Will there be a place at school for devices to be stored when they are not being used?

When students are not in class their devices should be stored in their bags in a safe place. They should not leave their bags unattended at any time. They should also not leave their bags in places where they can be easily damaged.

A small number of lockers are available to hire for a small fee. Please contact the Administration Office for more information on locker hire.

I am worried about the security of my child's device

We have had no reported cases of malicious damage or theft of another student's device since the Laptops for learning (BYOD) program commenced.

You may consider specific accidental damage insurance for your device (see below question about insurance).

You may also consider using a device locator service.

Will my device be covered by insurance?

Insurance remains the responsibility of parents/caregivers and students. Insurance will not be provided by the school and it is advisable to consider adding this device to an existing home and contents insurance policy.

I am worried about the weight of the device

The weight of a personal device should be considered if your child has to travel long distances to school, however this would be comparable to a bag containing text books and work books.

I am worried about protection of my child's device

It is recommended that families buy a sturdy case for their child's laptop.

At the time of purchase, students may purchase an optional extended warranty (past the standard warranty period) from the supplier/manufacturer of their device, during which any manufacturing defects that may occur will also be repaired.

I am concerned about the cost of the device

The purchase of a device is a major decision and a significant expense. A good quality device may last from Year 7 to Year 10 and viewed over four years the expense is considerably less.

Waratah Campus is working hard to integrate laptop use into most aspects of teaching and learning. Your investment allows the school to maximise learning outcomes for all students.

We also understand that purchasing a laptop may not be possible for all families. Please complete this [form](#) if you cannot provide a laptop for your child for financial or other reasons. We will contact with you to discuss an alternative arrangement so your child does not miss out on the learning and opportunities available to other students.

Will I be able to put my own apps or programs onto my device, other than the ones the school has asked for?

Yes. Parents and students are allowed to install their own apps and programs on their devices. These are at the discretion of parents and students.

Do students still have to bring exercise books to school?

Yes. A device is another tool for learning just like all other equipment. Students will still be required to bring exercise books and writing materials in addition to their device.

Do students bring their devices to school every day?

Yes. The device is part of a student's learning equipment. Students are expected to bring their laptop fully charged to school every day.

How will the school monitor potential misuse of the device?

Students must comply with the terms of our school's [Laptops for learning \(BYOD\) User Agreement](#). Internet access on the device will be filtered at school and students will be prohibited from connecting to other networks while at school.

Where the school has reasonable grounds to suspect that a device contains data which breaches the Laptops for learning (BYOD) Agreement, we may confiscate the device for the purpose of confirming the existence of the material. Depending on the nature of the material involved, further action may be taken including referral to the police. School disciplinary action may also be appropriate.

Will the school supply technical support?

Our Technology Coordinator is available to assist students to connect to our WiFi network and download free software available through the Department of Education. Families are responsible for repairs and ongoing technical support.