

# BYOD at Bayfield

Students are growing up in a world where technology plays an important role in learning. At Bayfield High School, our teachers are skilled in using digital technology in various forms to help engage students with the curriculum and give them the skills to use technology themselves to assist their learning. At the same time, we believe that all students still need to use pen and paper skilfully, and that there are some forms of learning that are more effective without the help of devices such as computers.

Many students bring their own internet-capable digital devices – laptops, tablets, i-pads, smartphones – to school, and these can be effectively used to enhance their learning provided they meet some minimum specifications. The technology is constantly changing, so this list of minimum (and preferred) specifications is current now (July 2019) but may seem quite outdated in another two or three years' time. If you are thinking of buying a device for school, please consider these requirements.

Please note – it is **NOT** compulsory to have a digital device at school – this information is only intended as a guide for those who are considering buying a device for their student to bring to school. Many local retailers have suitable devices – compare prices and specifications carefully, and ask about what other services they offer, for example, do they provide a loan machine if yours in needing repairs?

Type – please only consider a Windows or Mac or other Apple devices. Chromebooks and most Android devices are not suitable for the complexity of work and software requirements on our system. Any device must have Wi-Fi networking capability, and a USB port is very useful. Ideal – we have found the Microsoft Surface Pro 4 to be a particularly useful device for most students.	
Screen size – Minimum requirement is 10” screen. This makes it much easier for word processing, spreadsheets, graphing, and reading complex text. Devices with screens larger than 15” are likely to be too heavy.	Keyboard – a keyboard is required for efficient word processing. Some devices have a built in keyboard, some have an add-on accessory.
Software – we will supply you with the Office 365 suite of software tools.	Protective case – durable cases help to protect expensive devices from accidents, dropping, etc.
Weight – in general, the lighter the device you buy, the more comfortable your student will be carrying it back and forward between home and school. Most 15” laptops are too heavy.	Battery life – a device with at least 6 hours of battery life is required to last a full school day. We do not generally allow students to charge their devices at school except in emergencies.
Insurance – the school does not carry insurance for personally owned devices. You will need to arrange this as part of your personal contents insurance. Make sure it covers accidental damage.	Storage – Office 365 provides some cloud storage for students' work. If they need to store large quantities of videos, music or photographs, you will need to consider the built in storage capacity of your device, or a separate hard drive.
Processor – The more advanced the work, the faster processor and more RAM you will need	Security – Make sure you have up-to-date antivirus and firewall software installed.

If you have any further questions about this, please email Bevan Townsend, at [btownsend@bayfield-high.school.nz](mailto:btownsend@bayfield-high.school.nz).