

BARNIER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Stages 2 & 3 BYOD PROGRAM - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is it mandatory to bring your own device to school? **No.** In every classroom there will be devices for students who do not have access to a personal device for any reason.

Will technology replace explicit teaching? **No.** All teachers will continue to provide high quality and explicit teaching and learning opportunities for all students. The technology will be used to highly engage our students, support researched based quality teaching and learning programs and promote collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving and innovation within the classroom.

I already have a laptop at home - Can I bring this to school? **Yes.** As long as it meets the device specifications with particular reference to the wireless connectivity specification. Devices must support 5Ghz dual band wireless, 802.11a/b/g/n or 802.11ac. Ensure it supports both 'a' and 'n' frequencies.

Will my new device meet the requirements of the local High Schools BYOD requirements?

If this is of concern, before purchasing a new device please contact your High School of choice to confirm their minimum requirements. At this point in time the NSW Department of Education specifications which Barnier Public School is following meet these requirements for our local High Schools and therefore any device meeting these specifications will be acceptable. All students attending a NSW Department of Education High School will continue to have access to cloud based storage through Google Applications and Microsoft 365.

Why BYOD?

- Students will have daily access to a range of educational Applications used at school and at home;
- Any work done on the device will be available for students to access in the home setting and allow them to share their learning with parents/carers;
- Increased engagement through tasks that are individualised and require students to think creatively, problem solve, collaborate and demonstrate their learning in unique and individual ways;
- Students will begin to learn how to authentically integrate the use of technology into their daily work and to utilise it so as to maximise the greatest educational benefit;
- Students will not have to share a device with other students, allowing them to work at their own pace;
- Students will learn how to value and responsibly care for their own device and equipment.

I am concerned about the device being damaged or lost on the way to and from school. Will the school keep devices secure at school outside of normal operating hours? Arrangements can be made for students who wish to keep their device at school overnight. They will be locked in classrooms, however, the school will accept no responsibility of the device if broken or stolen. For most students, devices will be sent home each day to be charged.

Do you have a preferred device? **Yes.** Windows based devices with Windows 11 with Chrome browser installed are suitable devices able to access our BPS Digital Curriculum. Chromebooks will have the Chrome management system installed, free of charge, which will add extra security and control while using the device at school. *Please note:* Barnier Public School does not take any responsibility to remedy any device that does not meet the minimum specifications required to connect to our school network. You may be required to purchase additional hardware such as a USB WIFI adapter.

Do we have to purchase one of the recommended devices? No. Providing that your selected device meets the specification checklist found within the Barnier Public School BYOD Policy you are welcome to purchase any device of your choice from any vendor.

Where can I purchase a device? Barnier Public School has partnered with 'Learning with Technologies' to organise discounted prices on a range of specific devices. This company also offers a range of warranty options and interest free finance for approved applicants. Utilising this company to purchase a device is only one option and we encourage parents and carers to carefully read all terms and conditions of any company in which devices are purchased from. To ensure devices meet our specifications present the "BPS BYOD specification sheet" when visiting other retailers. **Refurbished devices are also available for purchase from certain online retailers at a significantly discounted price.** More information about purchasing devices through 'Learning with Technologies' can be accessed via the link:

<https://barnierps.orderportal.com.au/>

Do you recommend extended warranty options at time of purchase? Purchasing extended warranty and/or replacement plans are solely the responsibility of the parent/student. As students will be expected to bring a device to school each day, this may become a worthwhile expense to protect your investment. BPS will not accept any liability for damage or for the cost of repairs for any device brought to school. If you are choosing to Flexirent a computing device, purchasing additional warranty/replacement plans may also be advisable, where not included.

Will we be expected to purchase software at additional expense? Chromebook devices do not require additional software (such as Office) as students will have access to Google Apps for Education which includes an online Office suite. Depending on the device you purchase, some software may be included as part of the purchase price. We do not intend to make specific software recommendations. We can provide advice on a variety of different options for software applications. **Please note: Windows 11 operating systems will require the latest commercial antivirus software to be installed prior to access to our network environment.**

Will my device be secure at school? The school will make every attempt to keep devices secure, however, security of the device is the responsibility of the student. Devices will be locked in classrooms during the day and will not be allowed in the playground during recess and lunch breaks.

How do students access the Internet? Internet access on the device will be filtered at school by the NSW Department of Education. Students will be prohibited from connecting to other networks while at school.

Will my device be covered by insurance? Insurance remains the responsibility of parents/caregivers & 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.