Elwood College

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Information 2020

The Elwood College, Bring Your Own Device Program requires students in Years 7 to 12 to bring their own portable computing device to school every day. The aim is to support students and enhance their learning experiences both in and outside of the classroom.

Bring Your Own Device or BYOD has made the use of a wide range of digital technology devices commonplace across Australian schools and Elwood College is embracing this approach.

Mobile technology devices, so prevalent in today's society, have increasingly become everyday teaching and learning tools used by both teachers and students. BYOD has transformed the classroom by creating new opportunities for learning that ensures richer, more collaborative learning experiences. There is a wide body of research that supports the benefit of students participating in BYOD programs.

We have explored Department of Education policy, best practice methods of instruction, sought advice from schools currently using best practice in a variety of settings and conducted research into future technologies.

Our students face an ever-changing and very dynamic job environment where many employment prospects of tomorrow have not been thought of as yet. Preparing our students for the workplace of the future requires a different approach to teaching and learning by incorporating a vast range of pedagogical practices that focus on developing 21st Century Skills for our students.

21st Century Skills include digital literacy, creativity and innovation skills, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, communication and collaboration, and self-directed learning.

Elwood College also has an important role in preparing students for 'online communities', even though students may not access some online sites at school (e.g. Facebook, Instagram).

As students' learning includes more Internet activity, it is crucial to make sure everyone understands what they should and should not be doing online.

Behaving safely online means:

- Protecting their own privacy and personal information 'Cyber Safety'
- Selecting appropriate spaces to work and contribute
- Protecting the privacy of others (this can be sharing personal information or images)
- Being proactive in letting someone know if something is 'not quite right' – at home this would be a parent or guardian, at school a teacher

These principles of safety and responsibility are not specific for the web but certainly apply to the use of internet at both home and school. Just as in the real world, the virtual world of the internet involves some risks.

Over the course of the academic year students will access certain school endorsed websites. Parents will be advised of the list of sites at the beginning of each academic year.

Elwood College has developed proactive strategies that help to minimise these risks to our students.

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What will students do with the devices in class?

Students will use their device in class when instructed by their teachers. It is not expected that computers will be used in all classes every day. Under the direction of their classroom teacher, students will have access to online resources, or use the school's preferred online learning resources such as Compass, Gsuite and Office 365. Our school uses Compass to allow parents, students and staff to access timetables, attendance, lesson plans and important information in real time. Using a combination of Compass, Gsuite and Office 365 students are able to access all required resources and course work from anywhere at any time.

What type of computing devices should my child bring to school?

Students are invited to select their own device including those already used in the home setting. We recognise that cost for families play a significant factor in the implementation of this program and stress that the school does not intend to have families purchase expensive equipment for at school use for example Macbooks or other expensive devices are not necessary for junior school years.

Approved devices include:

- Laptops running Windows 10 or higher (recommended)
- Macbooks running OXS 10.13 High Sierra or higher (recommended)
- iPads running IOS 11.1 or higher (requires stand and keyboard)
- Android tablet running Android 8.0 or higher (requires stand and keyboard)
- Chromebook (not recommended for years 10 to 12 where some specific applications may be required for course work eg. Adobe Photoshop)

Minimum Device specifications are:

- Capacity to connect to the Elwood College Wi-FI
- Screen size – no smaller than 9.7-inch screen size is recommended. Devices with a screen size less than 9.7 inches are considered inappropriate as it causes eye strain over time
- Tablet devices require a stand cover to allow for proper posture during usage
- Tablet devices require a keyboard for typing
- Battery life of 6-10 hours. **Charging at school is only available at provided charging stations**. Students will need to ensure that charging occurs prior to coming to school and devices may be topped up at recess and lunchtime
- Lightweight for portability

Insurance and extended warranty are highly recommended for all devices brought to school.

What software will be needed on my child's computer?

- Office 365 is available free online from the Office Portal (information provided to students)
- Virus protection software

Elwood College is not responsible for any loss or damage sustained to any BYOD on school premises. Students and parents are fully responsible for all warranty, insurance and maintenance costs. All hardware issues should be referred back to the point of purchase.