Elwood College
Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
Information 2016

Introduction

The introduction of Bring Your Own Device "BYOD" in Elwood College offers huge potential benefits for teaching and learning. It offers extended opportunities for students and teachers to contribute to the world community on the web. It is expected that all students have access to a device in their classes.

Over the last few years Elwood College has sought to lower the cost of education by reducing the number of text books needed at school and replacing them with netbooks that were pre-loaded with software for educational use. BYOD takes this a step further by allowing students to bring devices that they already have at home.

To achieve this and maintain a high standard of teaching with technology we will be leveraging online and web based content to provide better "access anywhere" educational opportunities.

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

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 (we used to call it 'stranger danger' and '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 school.   Just as in the real world, the virtual world of the internet involves some risks.

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

BYOD Program

As part of the BYOD program students will have use of the school's network and are subject to the Acceptable Use Agreement.

Students may bring any device that meets the following criteria: These are a minimum specifications, anything that meets or exceeds these requirements will be acceptable.

- Screen size: Minimum 9.7 inch screen size

- Must be able to support Chrome Browser

- Must have a keyboard (Blue tooth key boards acceptable)

- Must have minimum Windows 8 for any PC device, IOS 8 for any Apple device and 10.9 for any MAC device

- No device more than 3 years old

- Battery life must be able to support the requirements of 300 minutes (5 hours) of classes

- Chrome books will be supported

- PCs and MACs must have up to date antivirus

- Android devices are **not** supported at this time (this may be revised in the future)

Recommendations when considering a device for school.
Screen size - larger screen sizes can be beneficial when looking at a device for many hours a day also consider screen resolution as higher resolutions are easier to read.
Touch Screens – with many website and applications becoming more touch friendly and interactive a touch screen would help a device scale well into potential future applications.
Portability – As these devices will be carried in the bags of growing children please pay attention the weight and size of a device, while they all feel manageable to begin with some heavier devices can be a burden to students by the end of the school day.
Keyboards - smaller keyboards are often harder to type on for longer periods, consider something that will be comfortable for longer periods.
Battery Life – When purchasing pay attention to the battery life of the device and consider how much your child uses their computer, devices should last the whole school day.
Insurance – Devices will be carried to and from school and between classes so there is always potential for accidental damage to occur, consider purchasing accidental damage insurance when you purchase your device to make sure you are covered if an accident happens.
Extended Warranty – If you intend to only purchase a device every 3 – 4 years then you should consider paying a little extra for an extended warranty. This will ensure the device will last the distance.

Elwood College will not be held responsible for any damage sustained to any BYOD device on school premises.
Students and parents are fully responsible for all warranty, insurance and maintenance costs.
All technical issues must be referred to point of purchase.