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**BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) 2017**

We are launching a trial BYOD program in 2017 commencing with Years 3-6.

Under the BYOD Program, students in Years 3-6 will have the opportunity to bring their own computing device to school each day. This personal computing device needs to meet device specifications that are recommended by the school and listed below.

The device specifications identify the minimum system requirements/hardware specifications for student devices and offer guidance on some suggested makes and models so that parents are fully informed about requirements. While many devices meet the minimum system requirements/hardware specifications, the school strongly recommends that students choose a laptop device to ensure that their BYOD maximises their learning experiences.

Careful consideration should be made if you are purchasing a new device. It is highly recommended that you seek information from your child’s intended High School as to device recommendations so that you can avoid purchasing a second device at this time.

Microsoft Office and Adobe Premiere Elements & Photoshop Elements are available at no cost to Department of Education students on one device for either Apple or Microsoft platforms. This should be factored in when choosing a device as it is often a sales incentive. Warranty and reliability should be the overriding concern.

Academic Software Download Centre

https://nsw-students.onthehub.com/WebStore/Welcome.aspx

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| **Form Factor** | Laptop, tablet device or convertible device A tablet device must have a physical keyboard attachment with separate keys for A – Z and 0 – 9 and which physically move when depressed.    **A mobile phone is not a device that will be accepted.** |
| **Physical Dimensions** | Minimum Screen Size: 7.87” (Ipad Mini size)  Maximum Screen Size: 15”  The screen should be a reasonable size to enable ease of use throughout a school day. |
| **Operating System** | Microsoft Windows 7, Windows **8.1** or newer • Apple MacOS X 10.6 or newer • Apple iOS 6 or newer  To ensure the latest programs and software are compatible, we recommend the current or previous version of any operating system. **Note:** Android-based devices and chromebooks are **intentionally omitted** from the Hardware Specification as some of the Apps do not work properly on the school’s wireless network. |
| **\*\*Wireless Compatibility\*\***  **\*\*This is the most important specification as there will be no internet access if your device does not comply\*\*** | If you are purchasing a device it is important for you to know that all DoE High Schools operate on a different wireless frequency than primary schools.  To connect to the High School frequency the device MUST have **5GHz- 802.11 a/b/g/n, 802.11 a/g/n** or **802.11 ac**  (Must have the ‘a’ to connect to a 5ghz network)  **Devices with 802.11 b/g/n or 802.11 n will not connect to a high school network.**  **Russell Vale Public School currently operates on a dual band frequency 2.4-GHz/5-GHz radios. Both bands operate simultaneously. Most devices will connect.** |
| **Battery Life** | Advertised battery life of at least **five hours.** Devices need to last the school day.  (There are no facilities to charge laptops in classrooms) |
| **Hardware** | Camera and Microphone.  These are necessary to ensure students can participate in 21st century learning activities. |

\*We are not recommending Google Chromebooks as they are too dependent on internet connection and have limited capabilities without connection. They too experience connectivity issues with our school internet services.

\*We are not recommending Android tablets as the apps do not communicate properly with our school internet services.

**Please Note:**

The DET wireless network installed in high schools only operates on the 802.11n **5GHz** standard. Devices with 802.11a/b/g or 802.11n 2.4GHz only will **not** be able to connect.

Ask this question **before** you buy a device for BYOD -“*The NSW Department of Education has a 5GHz (n) wireless network that uses a full range of channels. Will this device connect on all channels in the 5GHz range?”****Do not purchase a device for BYOD unless the answer is “yes”.***

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| **Recommendations** | Maximum weight: 2kg – Is the laptop light enough for your child to carry each day? Minimum RAM (laptops): 4GB  Minimum storage (tablet) 32GB Protective cover/sleeve – Needs to be tough and sturdy, can it be dropped without breaking?  Durability – consider the overall durability of the device, are the keys and inputs sturdy. |
| **Considerations** | Accidental loss and breakage insurance – devices can become lost or be broken easily at school, make sure your policy covers these eventualities.  Anti Virus Protection.  Warranty – make sure you consider purchasing extra warranty to reduce future repair costs as these devices will be used extensively.  Remember that this device is expected to last several years. |

**What are Russell Vale Public School teachers and students using:**

We are currently using both Windows and Apple operating systems.

Typical learning activities which the device would be expected to fulfil include:

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| **Access the internet** | Google Chrome must be installed – Google Apps is not accessible from any other browser. |
| **Create documents** | It is not a requirement to install a word processor as students will be using Google documents (free in the cloud). However, this is only available with an internet connection. Microsoft word, Apple pages etc. can be installed at your own discretion. |
| **Create presentations** | Any presentation tool. Examples include Microsoft PowerPoint, Apple Keynote, Google Slides (free in the cloud, requires an internet connection) |
| **Create spread sheets** | Any spreadsheet tool. Examples include Microsoft Excel, Apple Numbers, Google spread sheets (free in the cloud, requires an internet connection) |
| **Open PDFs** | Acrobat PDF Reader must be installed on all devices. (free) |

If you have an existing device such as a laptop which does not meet the minimum Wi-Fi spec there are solutions to getting these devices on our network.

Other devices such as iPads can be used but are not our preferred solution.