

WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL

Bring your own Technology



E-LIFE

Steps to e-learning

BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY

At Whanganui High School we want every student to have the best learning opportunities possible. We want our students to develop competencies they need for study, work and life-long learning.

It was with this in mind that Whanganui High School embarked on a 'Bring Your Own Technology' (BYOT) initiative in 2016. We want to enable our young men and women to become confident, self-directed and collaborative learners through the effective use of ICT, as well as be ethical and responsible users. This will enable them to be problem-solvers and positive contributors to our society in the 21st century.

The pace of change within the digital space is increasing at a rapid rate, providing exciting, but challenging opportunities for our students and teachers. Technology is becoming enmeshed in our lives and access to information is almost instantaneous through wireless Internet. This access to an anytime, anywhere, 'space' provides teachers with the opportunity to challenge students with rigorous, personalised academic experiences that embrace emerging technologies.

It provides learning to occur in ways that were not previously possible.

We are not advocating that learning only occurs through the use of technology – there is, at times, still a need for pen and paper.

What is the 'T' in BYOT?

For the purposes of BYOT, the 'T' stands for any technology that is a privately owned, personal, portable computing device which is wireless capable. This includes laptops, notebooks, chrome-books (Android, Apple and Microsoft) and to a lesser extent, tablets and smartphones.

To help parents make decisions about what technology is needed the School has set minimum specifications.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Battery Life - Should last 5-6 hours to be able to get through a school day without recharging. Devices should be used appropriately throughout the school day to maximise battery life.

Weight – Should be light enough for your child to carry around all day, anything more than 1.5kg including the case might be too heavy.

Wireless – Must be wireless capable as students will connect to the WHS wireless network.

Hard Disk Drive – We have unlimited cloud storage so hard disk space is minimal and only required for small apps and extensions to be added.

Robustness – Your device should be strong enough to survive a fall onto a hard surface. A protective carry-case is also advantageous for added protection.

Insurance – While we take care to protect students' property, we cannot accept responsibility for devices lost or stolen, so make sure it is covered for these possibilities. All insurance is parental responsibility. This relates to all electronic devices, including cell-phones, calculators and such-like. (When purchasing a device, you may wish to consider the optional packages offered by some suppliers, which include additional insurance cover.)

Warranty – Minimum warranty is one year with all new devices, but you may want to consider upgrading this to a two or three-year warranty. Another factor is how long the device will be away for should it require repair under warranty. It could be a few days, or, up to a few weeks. Check what the supplier can offer as a loan device should repair be required.

Anti-virus Software – For Windows or Mac OSX devices, up to date anti-virus and anti-spy-ware software is essential to protect the data on the device, and prevent the device being used to spread this malware to other devices at home or at school.

WHAT WILL I NEED?

All Year 9 students are required to bring a device with the Following MINIMUM specifications:

A **minimum** of a 10" screen with full keyboard. A Chromebook or laptop will provide students with a comprehensive learning tool and is ideal as an information and content creation device. Many Tablets will not have the full functionality that is required.

Operating System – The device may have a full operating system, either Windows or Mac OSX would be appropriate, as would the Chromebook operating system.

Internet Browser – The Google Chrome browser is recommended for our systems. Please ensure the Chrome browser can be installed on your chosen device for the best experience.

Google Apps for Education – We use a customised WHS Google Apps environment for teaching and learning. This provides students with a free office-type environment available using the Internet.

Due to factors such as battery life and warranty, it may well be necessary to purchase two devices during the student's five years at Whanganui High School.

Microsoft Office is not required, but will be available as a free download on up to five personal devices for enrolled students through the Office365 programme.

Teachers and other staff are not responsible for configuring personal devices to access the School network, although help will be given to students at the start of the year. Users may not use their personal device to access the WHS network via a hardwired connection.

DEVICE GUIDE

Type of Device	Advantages	Disadvantages
Laptop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of options available to suit different budgets. • More functionality and versatility than tablets. • Good screen-size. • Chrome can be installed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be expensive. • Can be heavy. • Usually poor battery life. • Lower end models often do not last and have slower processor.
Chrome Book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long battery life 5-6 hours. • Quick boot up time. • Supports Chrome fully. • Can be used off-line. • Cost effective option. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processor struggles with some applications. • Small hard drive. • Only supports chrome apps and web apps.

COMMON QUESTIONS

How will my child's device be used in the classroom?

This will vary on a day-to-day basis and from subject-to-subject. Teachers are learning focused and not device focused, therefore the use of ICT will be integrated into everyday practice as and when feasible.

Where can students lock away their devices while at school?

The expectation is that students will keep their device with them at all times.

What are the apps that need to be purchased for my child's iPad/Tablet and where do I purchase them from?

Tablets are not advisable as they often do not reach the minimum requirements. As with iPads, these do not meet the full requirements for a device.

What if I can't afford a device for my child?

Suppliers offer a wide range of packages to suit most circumstances. Please speak to us as we may be able to offer some alternate options if, none of the local providers meet your needs.

What Software is necessary for my child's device?

It is important for each device to have the free Google Chrome browser installed on it. We require this browser to maximise functionality of Google Apps for Education. Office products such as Word and Excel are not required to be purchased.

Will I be able to print from my device?

With the frequent use of GAFE, printing should be minimal and will not be possible on every device. If your device is compatible then cloud printing will be possible if and when required.

Will my child still have to adhere to the acceptable use agreement even though it is their own device?

Students are encouraged to become good Digital Citizens and, by enrolling at WHS, accept the terms of the acceptable use agreement. Breaches of this will be dealt with as a behavioural infringement with disciplinary consequences.

TERMS *and* CONDITIONS of ACCEPTABLE USE

Whanganui High School Student/Parent/Caregiver Digital device and Internet/WiFi use Agreement.

I understand that Whanganui High School is supporting students as they learn the LIFE skills required to become successful digital citizens. Our School defines a digital citizen as someone who:

- 1 is becoming a confident and capable user of ICT;
- 2 uses School Internet and WiFi to enhance LEARNING;
- 3 uses technologies to participate in educational, cultural and economic activities;
- 4 uses and develops critical thinking skills in cyberspace;
- 5 demonstrates honesty and INTEGRITY in their use of ICT;
- 6 is literate in the language, symbols and texts of digital technologies;
- 7 is aware of ICT challenges and can manage them effectively;
- 8 uses ICT FELLOWSHIP to relate to others in positive, meaningful ways;
- 9 respects the concepts of privacy and freedom of speech in a digital world;
- 10 contributes and actively promotes the EXCELLENCE values with digital citizenship.

I understand that our School has a policy and associated procedures * which outlines the School's digital citizenship approach and how this supports teaching and learning.

(* These documents are available on the School website/on request/at the School Office.)

Learning – I understand that the School provides access to the Internet, WiFi and other communications technologies because it believes that they enhance the teaching and learning process.

Fellowship – I have read the student declaration and have talked with my son/daughter about what it means to them. I am happy that my son/daughter understands what this means, and that they are capable of working within the guidelines, using Whanganui High School Internet and WiFi.

Excellence – I am aware that students can experience challenges when using technology, but that the School makes every effort to support students to manage those challenges effectively. I understand that by learning to deal with them in a safe environment with the appropriate support they will be better prepared to deal with those challenges in the future.

If I have questions or concerns about the way in which technology is being used by my son/daughter at School, I know the School is happy to discuss this with me, and I am aware that I am welcome to do this at any time.

By enrolling my child at Whanganui High School I understand that my child will adhere to these Terms and Conditions fully, and endeavour to become a digital citizen for LIFE.