

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Do I need to buy a new device for my child?

All pupils on the BYOD scheme will need to bring a **touchscreen Windows** device with a stylus to school every day. Some pupils will already have a suitable device that they can bring in to school. We have provided some minimum specifications for families buying a new device for the BYOD scheme. However, we have worked with our school supplier to provide purchasing options which may be of interest to some parents. Details of these options can be found on the BYOD pages of the schools' websites.

Why is touchscreen an essential feature?

We are well-versed in the use of devices with touchscreens and digital pens, and their use has proved most effective and transformational in the classroom. Indeed, touchscreens for general purpose devices are now becoming commonplace rather than exceptional. Be it drawing atomic structures in Chemistry, composing music on a stave, annotating and analysing maps in Geography or peer and self-assessing their work, the possibilities across the curriculum are endless and we are continuing to identify new ways in which the technology can be used to the benefit of the learning in the classroom.

Will there be some recommended devices?

Yes. Families are welcome to purchase a device from any source on the high street or online, so long as it meets the minimum specification. Alternatively, through our recommended school supplier, LEAD IT Services, we are providing the option to purchase one of a selection of devices at discounted educational rates, that will allow your child to access the core toolset of applications that they will be using across the curriculum. Every purchase also comes with a 1 year warranty for the device, with the option to purchase a 3 year warranty package and/or accidental damage cover in addition.

Devices can be purchased from LEAD IT Services throughout the year (<https://www.warwickschoolsbyod.co.uk/>) but please note that the offering on the site may vary during the year as we regularly assess the availability and prices of the hardware on offer. New models are often released in the Spring each year and we want to be able to offer the most competitive prices to our school community.

My child is new to BYOD. When should I purchase a device?

For pupils new to the BYOD Scheme, we would recommend that your child has their device over the summer holidays in order for them to become comfortable using it. However, unless absolutely necessary, we would highly recommend that you leave the purchasing of the device until the second half of the summer term. Whilst there are the annual Black Friday, Christmas and New Year offers, you will potentially be adding 8 or 9 months (a significant proportion) on to the lifetime of the device. To ensure that the device arrives in time for the start of the academic year, we recommend that you order your device by the end of the summer at the latest.

What financial options are there for purchasing a recommended device?

We have worked with our partner supplier to provide purchasing options at discounted educational rates on some recommended devices. Families have the option to purchase the device in one initial payment or to use the "Pay by 3"

scheme. Information covering all aspects of the purchasing scheme with LEAD can be found on the purchasing portal (<https://www.warwickschoolsbyod.co.uk/>)

Whilst the school has arranged competitive pricing for these recommended models through LEAD IT Services, families will be purchasing devices directly with LEAD IT Services and therefore the contract is between you and LEAD and not with the school itself.

Does the Foundation subscribe to the discounts available through the Dell Advantage Scheme?

Yes. If you happen to be looking at purchasing a Dell device, then you may be able to take advantage of the Dell Advantage Scheme for students, where up to 20% can be saved on some devices (and on top of other promotions). All you need is a school email address (Warwick Schools Foundation email address or other school email address) to register and claim your discount. Please see [here](#) for details. You are welcome to contact the school for further support if you are struggling to access this.

Is there any support for pupils on bursaries?

Yes. Parents are asked to contact the Foundation's Finance department (billing@warwickschools.co.uk) who will be able to take you through the support available.

What if our child has a laptop that we only recently bought and which meets all the specification points but is not touchscreen?

We recognise that the purchase of a device is a significant financial commitment. The touchscreen functionality with stylus is the central functionality of the device that makes the scheme so successful and transforms what is possible with the technology in teaching and learning. Pupils must have a touchscreen device with a stylus or they will not be able to effectively access all of the learning activities that the teachers will be using.

Families in this situation should contact the school about how best to support their child whilst an appropriate device is sought. In the interim, we will support those pupils as best we can so that they can access their learning activities in the classroom.

How will the device be connected to the school network?

The pupils' devices will be connected to the school's dedicated BYOD WIFI network, separate from the school's core WIFI network. Your child will receive support on how their device can be connected to the BYOD network, in BYOD introductory sessions and via help guides that we will be providing. Support will also be provided by the IT Department for any pupils who experience issues trying to log on to the school network using their personal device.

Any device that has a VPN running on it will not be able to connect successfully to the school's WIFI network – the systems will presume that the user is trying to bypass our web filtering in place.

How will we keep the pupils safe when on their devices in school?

The schools take online safety very seriously with regards the pupils' use of digital technology. Pupils are kept safe when their devices are connected to the Foundation network via our robust filtering and monitoring systems. Pupils will install a certificate onto their device to enable it to communicate with our on-site filtering and monitoring appliance, which then allows access to secure websites that it detects as being safe to use. The only data collected by the system is the pupil username, URLs of websites visited and any search terms put into the browser. Further details about the Foundation's filtering and monitoring systems will be shared with parents and pupils in a separate set of FAQs.

To complement the web filtering and monitoring, schools will continue to work hard to educate the pupils with regards online safety. This comprehensive approach includes having a clear and unambiguous Acceptable Use Policy for pupils, and education through support sessions, talks, PSHEE lessons and more.

Will the device be used in every class?

We always aim to provide your child with an effective learning environment where different learning and teaching activities are used to help your child achieve. This means that our approach to the use of technology is a blended one: it is not our intention to move away from the more “traditional” methods of learning, but to provide access to the most appropriate method for each learning activity – using technology alongside class discussion, written and practical work.

Where should work be saved?

We already provide access to Microsoft 365 and your child should save their work within the Microsoft 365 OneDrive space which provides more than enough space for their school work (1TB). This cloud space is available to all pupils from in school and from home on any internet enabled device.

Where will the device be kept when not in use?

Warwick School pupils have a locker in which they can keep the device (preferably in a carrying case) when not in use during the school day (eg. break times or when at clubs/activities). These have all recently been updated. Pupils can keep their devices in a locker if they are attending after school practices.

King’s High pupils have a locker in which they can keep the device (preferably in a carrying case) when not in use during the school day (eg. break times or when at clubs/activities). During PE and Games lessons, pupils have a locker in the PE department that they can store their device in during these lessons. For after school practices at the games fields, the pavilion changing rooms will be locked by the PE staff during practices.

The Kingsley School pupils have a locker in which they can keep the device (preferably in a carrying case) when not in use during the school day (e.g. break times or when at clubs/activities). These are lockable with an appropriate padlock. A facility to secure the devices will be available at the Pavilion when pupils are at after school practices at the school field. When using St Nicholas' Park, pupils will need to secure their device in their locker on the main school site as there is no facility to secure valuables that we are able to use at the leisure centre.

How will we help to keep the pupils and their devices safe outside school?

The schools already take personal security very seriously with regards the pupils’ use of mobile phones outside school. As we already do, we will continue to work hard to educate the pupils not to have their devices out on display outside school and that they should be tucked away in their bags at all times (including train journeys for example).

How will a device affect the weight of the pupils’ school bags?

We expect the weight of the pupils’ bags to decrease with their introduction to the BYOD scheme, with many departments using digital/online textbooks.

What support will there be should my child have a technical issue with their device?

Should your child have a technical issue with their device in school, we will provide them with a loan device that they can use until the device is repaired so that they can still access all the lesson activities.

What about insurance?

Warranties that come with devices often do not cover accidental damage (please do check the details of your warranty) and so parents may wish to ensure that the device is covered by a third-party insurance product. This may be your home insurance, or you may want to choose specific, device-related cover.

Alternatively, the Foundation's insurers, Howden Insurance Services Limited, do offer an optional possessions insurance option for £10 per term which would be added to the school fees bill. This cover provides comprehensive pupil possessions cover to meet the needs of your child and provide peace of mind against damage, loss and theft of valuables up to a value of £7500. This personal possession cover protects laptops and tablets in addition to other valuables such as bicycles, music and art equipment. The Foundation will share details of how you can sign up to the scheme and all the most up-to-date information about the personal possession insurance and other insurances can be found [here](#). Should you have any questions then please do contact foundationoffice@warwickschools.co.uk