

SELECTING & PURCHASING A BYOD DEVICE

Specification of devices

There is a minimum specification that devices must meet in order for the technology to best support the teaching and learning in the classroom, and the ever-advancing software that staff and pupils can benefit from harnessing. Whilst there are a range of devices available that meet the specification, **all pupils must be working on a touchscreen Windows device** for the easiest and most effective integration with the core suite of Microsoft software that we use in school.

For a number of subjects, specialist hardware or software may be used but the schools will provide access to that technology in the departments (eg. the class sets of iPad Pros in the Art departments for use with Pro Create, or the desktop computers in the Music, Computer Science and Design Technology departments with their subject specialist software for example).

Further details and an explanation of the device specification can be found on the school website. We recognise that some pupils may already have a device that is new but which might not fully meet our specification guidance. In this instance, please do get in contact with the school and we will be able to discuss a plan to best support you and your child in the interim period whilst an appropriate device is sought.

Optional Purchasing through a school recommended supplier

A range of devices are available to purchase through our school recommended supplier, LEAD IT Services. The Foundation and LEAD have aimed to provide a scheme through which you can purchase technology that allows your child to make the most of their studies, but at the most affordable price possible, which we hope will bring some peace of mind. There is the option to pay for the device upfront, or to use the option to “Pay in 3” with Paypal. Details of these devices and the payment options can all be found, year-round, on the dedicated portal page:

<https://www.warickschoolsbyod.co.uk/>

We do regularly review the offering that we have in partnership with LEAD IT Services, especially given the rate at which the technology progresses. Therefore the devices on the portal may vary during the year but rest assured that all meet the specification and we are simply aiming to pass on the most competitive prices that we can to our families.

Dell Advantage Scheme

Whilst the school has arranged competitive pricing for some models through LEAD IT Services, families can purchase any device that meets the minimum specification. If you happen to be looking at a Dell device, then do note that 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.

Installation of software on the device

All pupils new to the BYOD scheme will receive a “BYOD introductory lesson” in the first days of September, plus ongoing support during the year, to ensure that they can successfully access the core school Microsoft applications. Apart from these core software applications, your child is free to install any legal software on their machine, although we would recommend that this is kept to a minimum in order to ensure the continued effective use of the device.

Please note that you do not need to purchase the suite of Microsoft 365 applications. Your child will have access to download this suite of tools from their school Microsoft account on to their device.

Accessories for the device

To access and make the most of the inking functionality of the device, a **stylus** is a requirement for the device.

A set of **headphones** (any variety including small “in-ear” headphones) will be needed with the device in school so that pupils can watch and listen to audio and video files. They will be especially useful in languages lessons for example, where listening and speaking exercises will be used regularly.

We would **highly recommend that your child keeps their device in a protective case** to limit the risk of damage.

Warranty and Insuring the device

The 1 year warranty provided in the price for the machines above (and the optional 3 year warranty package), **does not cover accidental damage 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, you may wish to look at Gadget Insurance as an option – please see the end of this guide for further details.

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

Keeping your child safe on the internet

As part of our commitment to helping your child develop their digital literacy skills, we will be providing a range of learning activities focused on the safe, effective use of their device. In addition, the school implements a range of security features that aim to protect them whilst they are using the device on the school network, including a robust filtering and monitoring system to keep them safe when online.

All pupils will need to install a certificate on to their BYOD device in order to enable it to connect to 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.

Frequently asked questions

When should we buy a device for our child?

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, especially given the current international shortages in tech.

Will the portal remain open to buy a device next year?

Yes, the portal will remain open throughout the year so that families can purchase devices as they are required.

Can I buy a laptop from the high street or online instead?

Yes. You are free to purchase and use any device that meets our minimum device specification. Our BYOD programme recognises that every pupil is an individual, with their own needs and interests that may require a different device to the ones we have recommended above.

What core apps need to be installed on my child's device and where can I get these from?

Central to the BYOD programme are the Microsoft 365 suite of applications which are available via the web browser. However, you can install the core Microsoft 365 apps (such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote and Teams) on to your child's device from their school Microsoft account. Their school account allows for the **FREE** installation of the **Microsoft suite** on to a maximum of 5 devices.

Can I install additional software on to the machine?

Yes, the device belongs to you. The aim of the BYOD programme is to enable your child to develop their use of digital devices in ways that best support them and their individual learning.

Additional information:

Optional Gadget Insurance

Optional Gadget Insurance offers protection for multiple devices, like smartphones, laptops and tablets for the cover of theft, loss (this may cost extra), mechanical breakdown, and accidental damage, including liquid damage and cracked screens

If you decide to purchase optional gadget insurance, check to see if you are already covered by:

- **Your contents insurance:** If you have worldwide accidental damage cover, your device may be protected when it is out of your home.
- **The manufacturer's warranty:** If you only want to protect against mechanical breakdown and your device is still under warranty, the manufacturer will pay for repairs or replacement if they stop working.
- **Your packaged bank account:** If you have a reward bank account, check if it comes with basic insurance for your mobile device.

If your gadgets are already insured on another policy, check you have the protection you want. For example, some policies do not cover accidental damage.