

## BYOD AT ROPS INFO FOR WHĀNAU



As you will be aware, Royal Oak Primary School offers BYOD as an option to students in Year 3 to 6.

We offer this BYOD programme as digital learning is deeply linked to the mission statement of our school. We believe in 'creating opportunities for curious, critical thinkers who continue to learn and make a difference in their world.' A BYOD initiative can help to teach the skills needed to be responsible and resourceful citizens in both the physical and digital world. This is also connected to the NZ Curriculum Vision for all students to be "confident, connected, actively-involved, lifelong learners prepared to realise their potential and contribute to society and the workforce." Digital devices have the potential to expand and enhance interaction in the classroom, enable more real-world activities, improve learning environments, and engage students in new and exciting ways.

As part of the Digital Technologies Curriculum at ROPS we aim to ensure that all learners have the opportunity to become digitally capable individuals.

*"The digital curriculum is about teaching children how to design their own digital solutions and become creators of, not just users of, digital technologies, to prepare them for the modern workforce."*

Chris Hipkins, 2018

Should you wish to purchase a device for your child, there are a number of factors for you to consider, including price, battery life, portability, processing speed and software requirements. Therefore, we suggest you look at the BYOD portal on the PBTech website and search for Royal Oak School or talk to Noel Leeming in Royal Oak as they are aware of the requirements for our school. We realise that there is always a range of devices available from different retailers and various specials offered in sales. We run Microsoft Office 365, so recommend any Windows 10 laptop or flip laptop with a keyboard and a screen size of 11.6" upwards. Each child has a school Microsoft Office 365 account giving them the ability to install the full Office suite onto their device for free. You do not need to purchase Office. We will continue to provide shared access to computers at school for those students who do not have their own devices.

### Do students still use pen and paper?

Pen, paper and books will still be used. Some tasks (notes, planning) can be easier and quicker when using pencil and paper. Students will be learning to choose the right tool for the job whether that be pen, paper or the device. Students will still be interacting with each other face-to-face during class times. Many of our Year 5 and 6 students operate successfully with writing material and a device simultaneously.

### What will this mean in terms of screen time for my child?

Though we are integrating increased use of IT into our learning, this does not mean that your child will be fixed to a screen. Students will still work in small groups with their teacher, work in groups with their peers, use other 'hands-on' learning and write in books. Teachers are aware of the need to ensure that long sustained periods of time in front of a screen do not occur. The introduction to devices with Year 3 students is a very gradual process and a great deal of time will be spent learning how to take care of a device, embedding basic operating skills, how to position yourself safely and, digital citizenship and wellbeing around using a device.

### How can we ensure the online safety for our students at school?

We have a secure network that filters websites and can track the history of any user. BYOD devices are used on the same basis as school equipment, under teacher direction and following the school Digital Citizenship and Cyber Safety policy. A class expectation at the start of every year is that all screens are visible to the teacher. Students learn to position themselves so that their screens can be seen. Some senior students may earn an independent learner licence later in the year, once they have shown they can be trusted to work away from the teacher, as they may with other resources and tasks.

### Digital User and Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Agreement

As students enter Year 3, they are asked to talk through a Digital User and BYOD agreement with their parents and for both of you to sign to say you agree to follow the school expectations.

### Why have you recommended these particular devices?

At Royal Oak Primary we run Microsoft Office 365 and we recommend laptops running Windows 10. These devices provide a stable platform for running all the related software. Several important factors are seen as beneficial for enabling our students, including a screen of at least 11.6", an attached keyboard, battery life of 5-6 hours and the ability to download required software. These specifications are also higher than those required by our local intermediate and secondary schools so our students should be able to transition to their next school with the same device.

### We already have a laptop at home, can my child bring this?

Ideally students would bring one of the recommended devices as these will run all required programmes effectively. If however you have a device that meets the specifications of these devices we may be able to accommodate it at school.

### Will the devices be secure at school?

A lockable cabinet within the classroom is provided at school where devices are kept during break times and when students are involved in activities not requiring their devices. We recommend small tight fitting cases to give us more room to store devices.

### Do the students use devices at break times?

No. Devices are put away during break times and are not used, even if it is wet and the students are indoors.

### What about insurance cover?

Insurance covering the device is the responsibility of parents/caregivers. Usually devices will be covered

under contents insurance but you should check with your insurer. Unfortunately school insurance doesn't cover personal belongings left at school (this is the same for teachers).

### Why do the devices have to go home every day?

It is beneficial for students to take their devices home as an important part of the BYOD programme is extending school learning beyond the borders of school and into the home. We also ask that students charge their devices at home each night. Although our classrooms are well equipped with wireless technology, many rooms have a small number of power points. Running power leads across classrooms is unsafe and also prevents them from being locked away easily. If a student has a genuine reason to leave his/her device at school occasionally, this can be negotiated with the teacher who will ensure the device will be secure for the next day.

### How can I ensure my child is safe at home on their device?

Parents should be very conscious of ensuring that their children are safe when using the internet. These websites provide guidelines that may be useful when talking to your child about internet safety and how to manage the internet safety of your child at home. They will also provide you with an overview of how to manage security settings and add parental controls.

<https://www.netsafe.org.nz/advice/parenting/>

[www.commonsemmedia.org](http://www.commonsemmedia.org) is an invaluable website that gives information and advice about games, apps and movies.

Research states that web capable devices that students use should only be used under adult supervision and definitely not out of sight (i.e. in a closed bedroom). Sticking to this rule will alleviate most potential problems.

### Will my child be the only one using their device?

As learning is a collaborative experience there may be times when your child is required to "share their screen" with other students. However they would remain in control and have responsibility for their device. We will not ask your child to lend their device to others.

### I have read the BYOD information and I do not wish to provide my child with their own device. What do I have to do?

Nothing. You decide whether your child will bring their own device to school. The school will continue to ensure school owned devices are available for use across the school. You may also decide to provide a device for your child at any time that you see as suitable, e.g. part way through a school year. BYOD is an option only. Royal Oak Primary School merely provides the infrastructure for this option.

