

BYOD POLICY (Bring Your Own Device Policy)

Technology has become an essential part of education. To be able to live, learn, and work successfully in our information-rich society, students must be able to utilise technology effectively. Students' lives today are filled with technology that gives them access to information and resources, enabling them to pursue their interests in their way and at their own pace. The opportunities are limitless, borderless, and instantaneous. BYOD, or Bring Your Own Device, is the practice of allowing students to bring their own mobile technology devices to school. It allows students who already own devices to use them at school for educational purposes with the permission of the classroom teacher. BYOD increases the amount of technology available in the classroom, giving the students more hands-on access to technology devices for learning.

In DePS, students from Y1 to Year 9 are expected to bring their devices daily. FS2 are expected to bring their devices on all days except Friday.

Why doesn't the school provide devices?

The aim of the policy is to allow a range of different devices suitable for students' personal use. This allows students to integrate their life on one device to manage their personal time and work seamlessly. Parents and students are free to pick the device that best suits them.

What kind of educational activities will the personal devices be used for?

- Working in Microsoft office 365/Google Workspace, and Century Tech for various purposes such as producing documents, spreadsheets, and/or slide shows, email and collaboration amongst their peers and teachers.
- File storage and sharing: OneDrive and SharePoint for the purpose of collaboration and accessing resources.
- Access to video and audio recordings to support learning (Only in accordance with the Acceptable User Contract).
- Coding in Computer Science Lessons.

What device/software is needed?

Laptop/Tablets

- Intel core i3 above/ Android iOS
- RAM 4 GB above
- Hard disk space - 8GB Free Space
- Monitor - 14 inch & above
- Browser- Chrome Latest version

Note: Mobile phones are not permitted.

Minimum Technical Specifications for BYOD

Device	Laptop	iPad/tablet
Screen Size	10"-14" preferred	Any iPad or tablet
Hard Drive	120GB minimum	16GB minimum (64GB preferred)
RAM	8GB minimum	N/A
Battery Life	4 hours +	N/A
Accessories (optional)	Protective bag/case. Headphones	Protective bag/case. Headphones
WI-FI	2.4/5Ghz supported	2.4/5Ghz supported

Devices which do not meet the minimum specifications, usually older devices, may experience difficulties operating within the school or accessing live lessons/digital content. We do not permit the use of smart phones at DePS. Although smartphones may meet the required specifications in many respects, the smaller screen sizes limit their benefit for reading and writing extended pieces, presentations are more difficult to edit, and their battery life tends to be shorter than that of a tablet. Smartphone apps such as Snapchat and WhatsApp are also prohibited for use by anyone under the age of 13 years by the UAE authorities and, as such, we do not wish to encourage the use of smartphone devices at school. All devices must NOT have access to 4G (or this should be disabled) and should not have a VPN. The use of VPNs is prohibited in the UAE.

How will students access the Internet?

Students will access the Internet through our dedicated school WiFi access. Students must log on with their own details and we can then monitor internet use and take action if we find inappropriate use. Certain sites are already blocked.

Where can I charge my device?

Students need to charge their device at home to ensure they are suitably prepared for the school day.

Will the devices be safe in school?

The school cannot be responsible for devices in school. Students should keep their laptop/tablet with them during lesson time and keep them with the teacher or in their bags when not in use. Parents are advised to

document the serial number and insure the laptop/tablet for loss or damage in the unlikely event that there is an issue.

Will students use their devices in each lesson?

Devices will not be used in every lesson but only at the explicit discretion of teachers and only for as long as necessary to support educational objectives. The actual use of devices will vary in each lesson.

What about technical support?

We have a dedicated IT technician in school who will be able to provide help for students accessing our systems. Hardware issues with student devices will need to be fixed outside of school. Please note that the technical support team can only provide assistance to students if software is genuine and the language is set to English.

What if I still have questions?

Any teaching and learning questions can be directed to form tutors, subject teachers or Heads of Year. Technical questions can be asked to our IT department.

DePS is in no way responsible for:

- Personal devices that are broken while at school or on off-site school activities
- Personal devices that are lost or stolen at school or on off-site school activities
- Personal data that is lost or stolen at school or on off-site school activities
- Maintenance or upkeep of any personal device

Acceptable Use Policy

All students and a parent or legal guardian must review and agree to the Acceptable Use Policy. Conditions of Use Guidelines for Students

1. The student is fully responsible, at all times, for their personal device. The school is not liable for any loss/damage/theft or any monetary charges that may occur while the student is using the device.
2. Approved devices must be in silent mode while on school campus, unless otherwise allowed by a teacher.
3. Students are required to bring their own headphones. Headphones may be used with teacher permission.
4. Devices may not be used for non-instructional purposes (such as making personal phone calls and text messaging).
5. Devices should be sufficiently charged before the start of school every day.
6. Students may not use devices to record, transmit, or post photographic images or video of a person or persons on campus during school hours or during school activities, unless otherwise allowed by a teacher.
7. Devices may only be used to access computer files on internet sites which are relevant to the classroom curriculum.
8. Students must ensure they have the latest software installed on their devices, relevant to the subject area.
9. It is the student's responsibility to maintain sufficient memory capacity on their device to enable its use for educational purposes.
10. Devices must have appropriate protection/cases allowing easy carrying of the devices.
11. Devices must have a secure login and password.
12. The school behaviour Policy is applied if students fail to adhere to these guidelines.

13. If reasonable belief exists that the student has violated the conditions of this agreement the student's device may be inspected and/or confiscated. Subsequent or additional disciplinary action involving misuse of technology may extend to loss of technology privileges or further action as determined by the SLT.
14. Confiscated mobiles will be returned directly to students at the end of the day; phones are placed in a plastic zip-lock bag, labelled clearly with the student's name and tutor-group, and left for safe keeping with the appropriate member of staff.
15. Staff will also issue a Behaviour Point to the student, so repeat offenders can be tracked over time. For repeat offences, parents will be required to collect the mobile phone from the Head of Year rather than the student.
16. DePs and its staff reserve the right to take legal action against students who use their phones illegally, for example by taking and/or sharing photographs or making recordings of others without their consent.
17. Students from Year 3 upwards are expected to bring in their device each day on the assumption that the teacher may elect to use them for their lessons.
18. Parents are encouraged to take an active role in overseeing their children's use of mobile devices, ensuring safe, age-appropriate access to technology while cultivating responsible digital behaviours.

Students and Parents/Guardians acknowledge that:

1. The school's network filters will be applied to a devices' connection to the internet and any attempt to bypass the network filters is prohibited.
2. The school will actively monitor and filter all activities conducted on the student Wi-Fi network, implementing robust supervision protocols to protect students from inappropriate content, cyber threats, and other potential risks.
3. DePS is authorised to collect any device that is suspected of breaching the BYOD policy, the AUC, the data protection and information security policy, the UAE Social media laws for the suspected source of an attack, cyber crime, bullying, defamation etc. or virus infection.
4. If the device is locked or password protected the student concerned will be required to unlock the device at the request of authorised staff with a parent present. All students involved in the BYOD program will supply their own devices and be responsible for its safety, whilst on the school premises.
5. Students, Staff and Parents/Guardians are prohibited from knowingly bringing a device on premises that infects the network with a virus, Trojan, or programme designed to damage, alter, destroy, or provide access to unauthorised data or information.
6. Students, Staff and Parents/Guardians are prohibited from processing or accessing information on school property related to "hacking" altering or bypassing network security policies.
7. DePS is not responsible for restoring devices where passwords have been forgotten or the device is locked.
8. It is the choice of the individual families to insure devices against loss or damage.
9. Personal devices must be charged prior to school and run-on battery power while at school.
9. DePS is not responsible for loss or damage of student's personal devices or cases.
10. Mobile phones are not to be used by students on the school site or on school buses. If there is an emergency and the student needs to access a phone, they may ask their teacher who will send the student down to the administration area with a note to make the call.
11. Any student in breach of this BYOD policy will result in the application of the School Behaviour Policy, possibly leading to confiscation of the device.

12. The school and all authorities take abusive conduct seriously and enforce a zero-tolerance policy for any misuse of mobile phones by students that could be deemed criminal or culturally insensitive. Such incidents will be promptly reported to the relevant authorities to ensure appropriate action is taken.

Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Devices:

1. Each user is responsible for their own device and should use it responsibly and appropriately. The School will take no responsibility for stolen, lost, or damaged devices, including lost or corrupted data on those devices. While school employees will help students identify how to keep personal devices secure, students will have the final responsibility for securing their personal devices. Please check with your homeowner's policy regarding coverage of personal electronic devices, as many insurance policies can cover loss or damage.

Responsibilities of the school:

1. Provide a safe network structure and access to the Internet that enables the comprehensive use of the laptop/tablet.
2. The school will make every effort to ensure that students understand the routines and expectations for the safety and care of the devices brought to school. Teachers will help children to identify how to keep personal devices secure, but children have the final responsibility for securing their devices.
3. Provide support to access the school's dedicated systems and applications.
4. The school shall not be liable for any damages or theft occurring on the school's premises.

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