

BYOD

Bring Your Own Device 2026 Guide for Parents & Students



What is BYOD?

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) allows students to bring a personal IT device to the Academy that best supports their individual learning needs, provided it meets the required specifications.

Personal devices are a powerful tool for differentiating and personalising learning. The Academy will continue to support students by diagnosing IT issues and, where necessary, consulting with families regarding further action. The following recommendations outline the expected device specifications and software requirements for all student-owned devices brought to school.

Minimum IT Device Specification

The specifications below should help guide you in purchasing a device with the minimum specifications supported by Queensland Academies for your student's technology needs.

Windows Laptops/Tablets - Minimum Specs

- Windows 11
- Intel i5 (12th Gen or newer) or AMD Ryzen 5 (5000 series or newer).
Snapdragon/ARM processors are not recommended and not supported.
- 5Ghz compatible wireless card
- 8GB RAM
- 256GB SSD

MacBook/Pro/Air - Minimum Specs

- Ventura (13)
- M2, or higher
- 8GB RAM
- 128GB SSD

All BYO devices are expected to have a battery life to last a full school day (6 hours).

Please Note

- Chromebook Devices, Android Tablet, Windows 10, MacOS Versions Older than Ventura (MacOS 13), CoPilot+ PC (Snapdragon or devices running an Intel i3, Celeron Processor or a Ryzen 3 Processor will not be supported.
- All laptops must support 5GHz Wi-Fi (802.11ac/ax Wi-Fi)
- 2.4 Ghz wireless connectivity will not connect to the Department of Education wireless network.
- All laptops must have Windows 11 or MacOS
- Chromebook or Android operating systems are not supported. VPNs are unsupported on our school network and should not be installed.

If your device does not meet the minimum specification requirements our technician may not be able to support your device. If you have questions about whether a specific model computer will meet the requirements, please feel free to contact the QAHS IT Department at it@qahs.eq.edu.au.

Examples of Devices that meet minimum specification

Laptop



Microsoft Surface Laptop



HP Pavilion

Tablet PC



Lenovo Miix 510



Dell Inspiron



Microsoft Surface Pro

Apple



Macbook Air



Macbook Pro

Examples of Devices that DO NOT meet minimum



Chromebook



iPad



Galaxy Tab

When to Purchase

It is expected that all students will have an IT device ready for the first day of school. It is a good idea to purchase the device early so the student can become familiar with it and hit the ground running when they arrive at the Academy.

Choosing your Device

We can understand and appreciate the uncertainties that may be associated with choosing the best device for your child. This documentation provides the minimum specifications that are required as well as examples of most of the popular brands that meet these specifications. You will also find examples of devices that do not meet specifications.

Unfortunately, we are unable to recommend one device over another due to our adherence to the “Public Sector Ethics Act 1994” where we have a “duty to provide advice which is objective, independent, apolitical and impartial”.

Should you have any specific questions with regards to a particular device please consult our IT staff and they will be happy to assist you.

Software

All state school students from Prep–Year 12 can now download multiple free copies of the Microsoft Office 365 suite to their personal computer. Each student has access to OneDrive for Business as part of Microsoft Office 365. OneDrive for Business is an integral part of Microsoft Office 365 and provides a place in the cloud for students to store, share and sync their school files.

Students can download Office from here -<https://portal.office.com/OLS/MySoftware.aspx>.

(You must have an active EQ email address & password)

NOTE:

- *Dropbox and Google Documents are not accessible at school for students. Please use your EQ OneDrive account.*
- *Personal OneDrive accounts will not work on the school network*
- *iCloud does not work at school*

Suggestion of additional software to install:

Internet Browsers

- Microsoft Edge for Business
- Safari
- Google Chrome

Online Storage/Backup

- Microsoft OneDrive

Video Player

- [VLC Player](#)

Audio Recorder

- [Audacity](#)

Backing Up

As we all know, technology can fail and can be lost or stolen so it is extremely important that students have a backup plan in case things go wrong. Backing up is easy. Once set up, your data should be backing up automatically. You just need to check occasionally, to make sure your backups work. There are two main types of backup solutions:

1. Local Backup

Every week, copy your most important files onto an external hard drive which is kept in a safe place. You can even use Windows Backup (or Time Machine, if you have a Mac) to do this automatically!

2. Cloud Backup

This involves simply installing Microsoft OneDrive on your computer to instantly and automatically copy your files to the internet. This makes multiple copies of your files at various places around the world, making it hard to lose any of your files.

Care of Device

It is the responsibility of families to keep their chosen IT device in good working order to ensure minimal disruption to learning. It is expected that students bring their IT device to school each day fully charged. Due to the vast number of models available, laptop chargers are NOT available for loan from the school. Each device should be clearly labeled with the student's name.

Students should take care to put their device to sleep when moving around, as failure to do so can damage the hard drive and potentially lose files. Choosing a device with a solid-state drive (SSD) can alleviate some of these issues.

Case/Carry Bag

A strong carry case is a great way to protect your device from accidental damage like drops. Use a bag or case designed to hold a laptop with adequate padding.

Insurance

Purchasing insurance is a personal choice. When purchasing your laptop please learn about your options to purchase accidental damage protection for your IT device. This covers your device with accidental damage on and off the school campus. Fire, theft and acts of God are usually not covered under these programs, and we request you to include it in your personal or home insurance. The insurance can be purchased with your computer vendor or any insurance company. All insurance claims must be settled between you and the insurance company.

Warranty

We advise that all devices are covered by an extended warranty to last the students' time at the Academy. Statistically a computer will require, on average, 2.5 repairs during its 3-year life cycle.

Repairs and Maintenance

All maintenance for the IT device, operating system, software and/or apps purchased by the family are the responsibility of the family. Families should ensure quick maintenance turnaround for student devices.

School Support

If you run into a problem, we advise students to see the Academy IT staff who will attempt to diagnose the fault. If this is not able to be resolved by QA Staff, they can recommend a course of action for repair (eg. warranty claim, insurance claim etc).