**Armidale High School**

**PRIDE RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY**

**Armidale High School BYOD Policy**

All students in Years 9 to 11 are asked to bring their own computing device to school each day.

The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program follows the Digital Education Revolution program that ended in 2013 and is an extension/relaunch of our AHS Policy from 2015.

**BYOD Explained**

\* **BYOD** is a development throughout all levels of education and the world of business.

\* **BYOD** is based on the idea of allowing for flexibility in people's choices about technology.

\* **BYOD** acknowledges that technology and the use of digital tools are increasingly important across all areas of the curriculum.

\* **BYOD** is designed to give you, as students and families, freedom to make technology choices that suit you and all your circumstances.

**How will BYOD work?**

In 2017, and beyond, students are asked to bring their own mobile electronic device to school every day. Students are free to bring any device that meets our Device Specification.

You will be required to sign a User Charter that sets out how the device can be used at school.

A BYOD contact will be available to answer questions and to give assistance, but the school does not manage, support, own or warrant the device - it's your choice and your device. Our Technical Support Officer (TSO) located in the school Library will be able to assist with questions about device specifications to ensure it can be connected to the school wifi network.

**What type of device can we bring?**

Various devices in price categories will meet the Device Specification. It can be a laptop or a tablet. Tablet devices or cheaper touch screen laptops may be half the price of larger sized ultrabooks. You should also consider a device with a pen or stylus would be more usable in Maths. Often touch screens and pens are more expensive options however we have located an inexpensive option for you to consider (see below).

 You should carefully consider all your options for purchase or lease/rent-to-buy.

Consider also that a good quality device should last for at least four years. Please check the parent BYOD checklist below to ensure the device you purchase will meet the requirements of our network.

**I'm concerned about the costs**

The purchase of a device is a major decision and a significant expense. A quality device should last from Year 9 to Year 12 so viewed over four years the expense is significantly less.

Since 2009 the school has incorporated computers, laptops and tablets into most areas of teaching and learning. This investment in digital technology is assisting in ensuring optimum learning outcomes for all students, preparing them for their future workplaces and the global climate in which we now live.

We are committed to delivery of the same learning outcomes for all our students whatever their family’s financial circumstances.

We have developed an Equity Policy to operate alongside our BYOD Policy. The Equity Policy outlines a number of strategies the school may take, in consultation with you, to support access to information and communication technologies (ICT).

Popular cheaper options for purchase include the infinity one device <https://www.one-education.org/> OR the HP STREAM notebook <http://h20386.www2.hp.com/AustraliaStore/Merch/Offer.aspx?p=stream> .

**About device security**

The school does not own, support or warrant the device. Experience from the DER scheme indicates that students who took good care of their device and considered themselves the device's owner rarely had device security issues.

You are advised to consider insuring the device against loss or damage, particularly if it is of significant value since the school and the Department of Education and Communities does not accept liability for loss or damage to student devices. (from: Legal Issues Bulletin 8)

You might also consider using a device locator service. These services include the "Find my iPad" service built in to Apple iOS devices, "Prey" for Windows or "LoJack for Laptops".

Internet access on the device will be filtered through the Blue Coat Filter, while students are at school and they will be prohibited from connecting to other networks while at school.

**Choosing a device**

Laptops, Chromebooks, Tablets are not all the same. They offer different types of software and have different functions. All can be used for:

\* note making, calculation, working with images audio and video.

\* accessing the Cloud and Cloud based applications available through Google Drive, Google Apps For Education and Microsoft 365.

\* accessing cloud based teaching and learning tools such as Edmodo and Microsoft Office OneNote

\* accessing social media applications.

The Department of Education and Communities (DEC) is able to provide copies of the Adobe Creative Cloud applications and Microsoft Office 365 at no cost to students. These only operate on laptops. With these applications available on a FOC basis, Laptops are a far more economical BYOD solution than they would be if the applications had to be purchased at retail prices.

The Adobe application is currently available for download by students through their portal. Microsoft Office 365 is available from their student portal.

Whether students are working with a Laptop, Chromebook or Tablet will not matter as the teaching will be device neutral. Students will be encouraged to collaborate. Teamwork, communication and sharing will be features of a BYOD setting.

**BYOD Equity Policy**

The AHS BYOD Program can only function effectively if all students have access to a device that meets the Device Specification.

All BYOD programs involve a cost to users.

To ensure access and equity for all students in years that are part of the BYOD program the school has established procedures for families to apply for assistance in obtaining access to a device that meets the Device Specification.

If you believe you are unable to provide a device that meets the specification you may make an application in writing to the Principal, or make an appointment to speak with the Principal, so that your particular case can be outlined.

While the school won’t purchase devices for students in the BYOD program there are several options available to provide assistance to students.

These include:

\* Loan of a laptop or other device for a particular day.

\* Recurrent daily loan of a laptop or other device.

You will be asked to make an agreement with the school that confirms the alternative arrangements made for your child’s access to a device. For some students this will be facilitated through the Head Teacher of Welfare, particularly in the creation of recurring loans over multiple weeks.

**Mobile and Electronic Device Agreement**

\* Students and parents must sign the ‘Bring Your Own Device’ Program: User Charter in order to bring a mobile or electronic device to school.

\* Students are to use these devices responsibly at all times at school and follow the school Code of Conduct and Core Rules as well as our PBL Values -have pride, be respectful and responsible learners at all times.

\* Devices are to be on silent at all times during lessons unless teachers direct otherwise. They may be asked to ‘dip or flip’, dipping the laptop screen or flipping a tablet screen side down.

\* Use of devices during class time is solely at teacher discretion. Students must follow teachers’ instructions and not interrupt their own or others’ learning.

\* Teachers may choose to insist all students place their devices face down, or closed, on their desks.

\* Misuse of a device may result in confiscation. The device will be available for collection at the end of the day.

\* No student is to record conversations or capture photographs, video or audio of others, including lessons, without the knowledge and permission of the teacher or those involved. Failing to adhere to this rule may result in suspension and the matter may be referred to police.

\* Devices must not be used to bully, intimidate, harass others through SMS or text messaging or through photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the device. Failing to adhere to this rule may result in suspension and the matter may be referred to police.

\* Devices must not be used to download or otherwise access inappropriate material on the internet such as child abuse or pornographic or other offensive material

\* Devices must not be used to film fights or other criminal behaviour involving students that occur at school, during school activities or while on the way to or from school

\* Devices must not be used in a way that threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or wellbeing of any person or for any use that is in breach of any law.

\* Students who bring devices to school must take responsibility for them. Staff take no responsibility for such devices and it is not possible for them to carry out lengthy investigations if a device goes missing.

\* Students who persistently misuse a device may have their privilege of bringing it to school removed.

**Inappropriate use of devices**

Inappropriate use of a device includes:

\* using it in a way that disrupts or is likely to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school or institute

\* bullying, intimidating or otherwise harassing others through SMS or text messaging or through photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the phone

\* recording of conversations, including lessons, without the knowledge and permission of the teacher or those involved in the conversation [refer also to the separate section on Recording and Other Listening Devices]

\* downloading or otherwise accessing inappropriate material on the internet such as child abuse or pornographic or other offensive material

\* filming of fights or other criminal behaviour involving students that occur at school, during activities or while on the way to or from school

\* using it in a way that threatens or is likely to threaten the safety or wellbeing of any person

\* use that is in breach of any law. (from: Legal Issues Bulletin 35)