

Frequently asked questions about BYOD at Stanborough School

Do I need to buy a new device for my child?

All Year 7 students will need to bring a device to school from September 2022. Some students will already have a suitable device that they can bring in to school. We have provided a minimum specification for families buying a new device. However, we are working with suppliers to provide purchasing options which may be of interest to some parents.

How and when do students use their devices?

We expect the students to use their devices responsibly and sensibly at all times around the school. Students are not permitted to use their devices at break times and lunchtimes. In lessons, we teach the students about responsible use of devices to ensure that everyone remains on task. Rules include starting the lesson with laptop lids closed, and only using the device when instructed to do so.

Will the device be used in every class?

We always aim to provide your child with an effective learning environment where different learning and teaching activities are used to help your child achieve. This means that the BYOD device will be used for some, but not all, lessons. It is not our intention to move away from the more “traditional” methods of learning, but to provide access to the most appropriate method for each learning activity – using technology alongside class discussion, written and practical work.

Where should work be saved?

We already provide access to Microsoft Office365 and your child should save their work within the Office365 OneDrive space which provides more than enough space for their school work. This cloud space is available to all students from in school and from home, regardless of the device that they are working on.

How will we try to ensure safe use of devices?

We already have a clear and unambiguous IT Acceptable Use Policy and this still applies when a personal device is being used.

Will students be able to access inappropriate material in lessons?

All access to the internet will be via our secure wireless network. When the students connect to this they will use their standard email credentials and will be subject to exactly the same filtering and monitoring policies as they currently are on any school-owned machine. This means that they will not be able to access restricted or inappropriate content at school.

Will my child's device be safe at school?

Just as we say all student's books and clothing must be labelled, you must ensure that a student's device, case, and headphones are clearly labelled. It is likely that many of the students will have similar sorts of devices so it is essential that they are named. Students should have their device with them at all times. Stanborough School will not accept responsibility for any device which is damaged, lost or stolen on the school site. We strongly advise that parents and guardians have appropriate insurance for the device that a student brings with them to school. There will be limited locker space provided for times when this may be required.

What about personal safety and security beyond the school?

We have considered the question of safety of students very carefully and in doing so we:

- looked at many other schools and their approaches. As you are probably aware many other local schools are running BYOD programmes in different guises;
- considered that many of our Sixth Form and students with particular learning needs are already bringing devices in to school each day;
- considered the general prevalence of technology carried across the general public in Hertfordshire, and;
- looked at the existing use of mobile phones by our students, many of which are worth as much as a laptop or tablet device.

After considering all of these factors we made the assessment that to add a device to all students' backpacks was not going to increase the likelihood of them being targeted. The assumption is that most people will be carrying some sort of electronic device, and so it becomes more about behaviour and safety awareness as to whether an individual is targeted or not. This is not in any way to underestimate these issues. Indeed, students' awareness of personal safety is routinely addressed throughout the school. We also recommend that they bring their device to school in a bag which has a discreet device compartment rather than (or as well as) having a separate case for it.

What support will my child be given to use the device appropriately?

All year 7 students will spend time in their first computer science lessons in September learning how to log on to all our school systems and to use Office365 effectively. We will also offer parental sessions, to support with the use of devices at home.

What support will there be should my child have a technical issue with their device?

Should your child have a technical issue with their device in school, we will provide them with a loan device that they can use until the device is repaired so that they can still access all the lesson activities.

Contacting the school for further information

If you do have any queries that have not been answered here, then please do get in touch using the following email address: byod@stanborough.herts.sch.uk