

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) at Middleton Grange School

Over the past few years we have been discussing how best to integrate technology into pupils' learning at Middleton Grange School. Whilst pupils have already been using a wide range of technologies, we have been thinking and talking about increasing the opportunities they have. We are in the process of upgrading our school infrastructure and will continue to do so over the next few months to ensure the school has capacity to handle a large number of devices on the wireless network in the future. We have also watched carefully as other schools have introduced the 'Bring Your Own Device' model into their schools and feel we have benefited significantly from their experiences.

As a result, we are now ready to encourage a BYOD environment for pupils in Years 9-13. In 2019 it will be optional for all pupils in Years 9-13 to bring a device, and in 2020 all pupils will be required to BYOD. We believe that the use of these devices further develops our pupils' 21st Century competencies of digital literacy, communication and working collaboratively to problem solve and think creatively.

We have placed some clear guidelines around the introduction of BYOD:

- Pupils will be able to use their device only at the clear invitation of the teacher. If a device is misused in anyway a teacher has the right to confiscate that device.
- Pupils are responsible for the care and upkeep of their device. The school will not provide technical support for the device. Devices are brought to school at the owner's risk. The school is not liable for the loss or damage to any device. Pupils are encouraged to lock their device in their locker during interval and lunchtime where it will be secure.
- Mobile phones will not be used as a learning tool.
- Pupils may use their devices during interval and lunchtimes, however, this must for educational use only and in approved areas of the school.

There are a number of device specifications that are critical to the success of the BYOD programme and these are listed below:

- Quad core Processor minimum – i3 or above is recommended.
- 10 inch screen size minimum
- 4Gb Ram minimum
- 802.11AC wireless
- 128 SSD hard drive minimum
- Guaranteed battery life of 5 hours or more.
- Full Windows 10 or Mac OS operating system
- Device must have a physical keyboard
- Protective case is recommended
- Antivirus software essential
- A device with a stylus is recommended
- iPads and chrome books are **NOT** an acceptable device choice

Middleton Grange is supported by Cyclone computers who are creating a purchasing portal specific to our programme. Devices for sale through this portal are approved by the school. To access go to www.cyclone.co.nz/byod - select Middleton Grange School and use this password: **byodmgs**

A number of retailers offer purchase options to assist with the purchase of a device. An extensive warranty and comprehensive insurance are highly recommended for all pupil devices. We will also be offering forums for parents to attend over the next 18 months regarding BYOD, internet safety and other topical issues related to information technology. All pupils are able to access the full Microsoft Suite free of charge through the school.

The board of trustees are committed to providing a safe digital environment for pupils. We are working with Linewize to investigate options that would safeguard every pupil through the installation of software on each device to provide an additional level of safety.

Many thanks for your support with this initiative,

ICT Committee Middleton Grange School