Wireless Connectivity

Wireless Connectivity is key to BYOD in schools! Devices must support **Dual Band (5GHz & 2.4GHz) Wi-Fi**.

Operating System

To ensure the latest programs and software are compatible, we recommend the current or previous version of any operating system.
E.g. iOS 13 for iPads.

Battery Life
Minimum 5 hours

Devices need to last the school day; we recommend a minimum of 5hrs battery life without recharging.

Minimum Storage & RAM
16 GB Storage 2 GB RAM (Tablets)
120 GB Storage 4 GB RAM (Laptops)

To be able to store and process data effectively these minimum specifications are recommended.

Hardware Features
Keyboard, Camera & Microphone

If using a tablet a keyboard will be necessary and a stylus may also be useful.

Screen Size
Minimum 10 inches

Ensure the screen is of a reasonable size to enable ease of use throughout a school day.

Other essential considerations

Casing: Needs to be tough and sturdy, can it be dropped without breaking?
Weight: Is the laptop light enough for your child to carry each day?
Durability: Consider the overall durability of the device, are the keys and inputs sturdy.

Look for a tough and thick outer shell

Remember this device is expected to last several years

Accessories

Carry Case: A **waterproof** carry case is essential in protecting your device and can provide ergonomic advantages.

Insurance: Devices can become lost or be broken easily at school, make sure your policy covers these eventualities.

Warranty: Make sure you consider purchasing extra warranty to reduce future repair costs as these devices will be used extensively.

BYOD - Bring Your Own Device

Wi-Fi Connectivity

Wireless operates on two frequency bands **2.4GHz** and **5GHz**. The Department of Education Wi-Fi officially supports **5 GHz**. With BYOD now becoming very popular the advice should always be for students to purchase mobile devices that support both bands rather than just 2.4GHz, because they will get the best performance from the DoE Wi-Fi connection.

Antivirus Programs

As part of the **NSW DoE BYOD Policy** an active antivirus application is required. Most operating systems have a free antivirus program installed (**Microsoft Defender**). Please check that the antivirus program is enabled and definitions updated.

Software Partners

All NSW Department of Education students are eligible to download **free** Adobe and Microsoft software from this website. This software is only available to download onto personally owned devices. This software includes Microsoft Office, MS Office 365 and Adobe Creative Suite.

Students will need to use their **@education.nsw.gov.au** student email address to register on their first visit. To register, click on the "Sign In" link at the top of the page and then click on the REGISTER button. A verification email will be sent to your DoE email address. To complete the registration please select the link provided in the email.

The school also has loan laptops with all the DoE applications installed available to students.

nsw-students.onthehub.com/WebStore

All BYOD devices must be registered with the school before connecting to the Wi-Fi

Parent BYOD Purchasing Information

- **Entry-level devices:** These low-cost laptops are relatively low-powered, but quite capable of most general computing tasks like web browsing, email and general word processing. They can handle most basic multimedia tasks – like video streaming – and are best suited for younger students. Look for lightweight models.
  Chromebooks are inexpensive web-based devices that require an Internet connection; although some apps may run offline. These devices will <u>not</u> run most TAS and CAPA subject programs.
  Specifications: **Pentium/i3 CPU, 4-8GB RAM, HDD Storage. Prices start from $400.**

- **Mid-range devices:** Aimed at regular computer users. Mid-range computers can run most software but may struggle a bit with high-end functions like Hi-definition video editing and programs that require fast graphics processing.
  Specifications: **i5 CPU, 8GB RAM, SSD Storage. Prices start from $1000.**

- **High-end devices:** For CAPA & TAS students who need systems that can handle intensive computing tasks like editing HD Video with Adobe Premiere, 3D rendering and high-end games development.
  Specifications: **i7 CPU, 8-16GB RAM, SSD Storage. Prices start from $2000.**

CPU, or central processing unit*,* is the computer component that is responsible for interpreting and executing most of the commands from the computer's hardware and software.

RAM - Memory, or random access memory, is the temporary storage used by programs when they are running. Generally, 4GB (gigabytes) of RAM is considered the starting point for a laptop or desktop computer, but these days 8GB is standard. Some new laptop models (MacBooks) cannot be upgraded as the RAM is soldered to the logic board. Adding more RAM to older devices, if possible, will be useful for running more programs at the same time.

Storage – **SSD**s, or solid-state drives, are the fastest kind of storage drive, up to 15x faster than older **HDD**s (hard-disk drives)*,* sometimes referred to as flash storage. As with HDDs, the capacity and speed of SSDs can vary greatly. Solid state drives (SSD) are highly recommended for best performance.

Wi-Fi - Look for a laptop that supports the latest Wi-Fi standard, **Dual Band 802.11-AC**.