



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE



2025 BYODD
GUIDE

Overview

We live in a rapidly changing world and technology continues to be at the centre of many of these changes. Social media, generative AI, fake news, apps, gaming – all place pressure on our young people. In support of the continual education of students in the responsible use of technology, the Australian Curriculum embeds key aspects of ICT skills across the curriculum (ACARA, 2015)²: today's students must “learn to use ICT effectively and appropriately to access, create and communicate information and ideas, solve problems and work collaboratively in all learning areas at school and in their lives beyond school.”

Educators need to provide a teaching and learning environment that not only fosters the development of foundational skills in literacy and numeracy, but also provides our students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to use information and technology to enhance other aspects of learning. Effective technology use in support of learning involves ready access to tools which enhance critical thinking, creativity, clear communication, online collaboration, feedback and sharing.

St Patrick's uses an extensive range of cloud-based educational platforms such as Microsoft Office 365 and the Canvas Learning Management System so that our teachers and students can collaborate and learn in an online environment without being tied to designated operating systems or programs.

Ultimately, we want to ensure that the use of technology enhances and supports the College's long-standing approach to high quality education. Teachers will use technology in different ways. In negotiation with students, teachers will decide when and how all devices will be used in the classroom environment. All students will be expected to use their device in a manner that is aligned with the expectations and values of the College. Students, for the foreseeable future, will require a mixture of hard and soft copies of textbooks where applicable. It is essential that students continue to handwrite notes and longer responses – this helps in the processing and retaining of knowledge.

Students will be supported to grow in their responsibility for their digital devices and the College will act, where necessary, to ensure that all students are demonstrating this responsibility. We want students to have a healthy balance between use of their devices for learning and opportunities to learn and interact without being tied to a screen. Parents can support this approach in the home by limiting screen time, removing access to screens before bedtime and ensuring devices are not kept in their sons' bedrooms overnight. We insist that students don't use their devices at recess, lunch or on public transport to support personal interaction and play. We also request that a suitable carry case be used for transporting their devices to prevent damage.

We have prepared this BYOD guide to support parents in choosing an appropriate device for your sons. “Device Selection” provides a selection of possible devices and their suitability for various age groups. The “Device Specifications” should be used to determine if a current or desired device will meet our standards. “Frequently Asked Questions” is a starting point that we hope will address some of your basic questions as we continue this journey together.

Our approach to technology use at St. Patrick's starts from a firm base in valuing the centrality of relationships in a Catholic education. We maintain high academic standards and value the importance of learning as vital to the development of the whole person. Our Learning Technology Integrator will assist teachers and students to develop and enhance their skills in effective use of technology for learning. We look forward to sharing this exciting journey in education with you.

Kind regards, Denise Lombardo
Director of Learning and Innovation

¹http://www.curriculum.edu.au/verve/_resources/National_Declaration_on_the_Educational_Goals_for_Young_Australians.pdf

² <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/general-capabilities/information-and-communication-technology-ict-capability/>

Transition to Windows Only

An important update regarding our school's technology infrastructure. After careful consideration and evaluation, the college has decided to phase out Apple Mac laptops in favour of Microsoft Windows laptops. This decision has been made to better align with our educational goals and to enhance the overall learning experience for our students.

By standardising our technology, we will be able to offer a more consistent and integrated educational environment that will ultimately benefit our students' learning outcomes.

Reasons for the Transition are:

Compatibility and Integration:

Microsoft Windows laptops offer better compatibility with the software and applications used in our curriculum, such as Office365. While available on macOS, the integration and functionality of Microsoft Office tools like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint are often more seamless on Windows. This ensures a seamless integration with our existing systems and enhances the efficiency of our educational tools. Many students are already familiar with Windows, reducing the learning curve and making it easier to integrate into the classroom.

Cost-Effectiveness / Support and Maintenance:

Windows devices come in a variety of price ranges, making it easier for families to find budget-friendly options. Generally, Windows devices can be easier and cheaper to repair and upgrade compared to macOS devices. This minimizes downtime and ensures that our technology remains reliable and accessible. Laptops purchased through the BYODD portal will be better supported through phone support / troubleshooting and NBD repair onsite at the College or home by the vendor.

Security and Management:

Windows offers robust security features, including Windows Defender and BitLocker, to protect against malware and data breaches. It also provides powerful tools for IT administrators to manage and secure devices across the school network, such as Group Policy and Windows Autopilot where used.

Future-Proofing:

By standardising on a single platform, we can better prepare for future technological advancements and ensure that our students are equipped with the skills needed for the modern workforce.

Device selection

The table below has been created to assist parents needing to buy a new device for BYOD in 2025.

With tablet devices and laptop computers, whether they run Android, iOS, Windows or Mac operating systems, there is a large variation both computing power and price. For example, a high-end Windows pc with i7 processor is more powerful than a low-end windows pc with a Ryzen 5 processor, and in some cases a laptop computer is more versatile than a tablet device, however **it is not necessary to always look for the most powerful or most expensive**. Parents should weigh factors such as their sons' year group, size/weight of device and battery life when deciding on a computing device for their son. Parents should not be swayed by pressure from sons or peers when purchasing a device. The school supports your decisions, in line with the guidelines published below.

Please note: in all cases, even though new laptops have esim hardware built in, the College does not recommend that parents purchase devices with capabilities/services. **The use of mobility to hotspot for internet access is prohibited during school hours.**

	Years 5 - 6	Years 7 - 10	Years 11 - 12
Windows11 Laptop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Surface • Other Windows laptop brands e.g. HP, Dell, Lenovo 	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable ^{#1}
Chromebook Linux Based Operating System Android Based system IOS / OSX Systems (Apple)	NOT Suitable	NOT Suitable	NOT Suitable

1. *If your son has chosen subjects in Years 11 and 12 where specialist software is used (e.g. Photoshop or CAD software), you may wish to consider a device with additional capabilities; the College maintains specialist computing facilities for these subject areas.*

Device Recommendations

We recommend that you complete the purchase of your son’s PC via the SPC BYODD portal set up by HP. All laptops available on the portal have been thoroughly vetted by our IT department to ensure compatibility with the college curriculum. Additionally, we have negotiated discounted pricing and offer a variety of specifications to accommodate different budgets and needs.

Year 5 to 8

Any of the Touch or Non-Touch range in Ryzen 5 to i5 with 16GB RAMM.

Year 9 to 10

Any of the Touch or Non-Touch range in i5 with 16GB RAMM

Year 11 to 12

Any of the Touch or Non-Touch range in i7 with 16GB RAMM

SPC BYODD Portal

The SPC BYODD portal can be found at the following link:

Website: [SPCBYODD](#)
School Code: SPCBYODD

Device Specifications

The minimum specifications outlined below have been compiled to ensure the best learning experience for your son.

Minimum Requirements – Hardware	
Form Factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laptop or hybrid. (<u>Must have keyboard</u>)
Screen Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.7" screen size or larger
Wireless Compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5GHz 802.11n (see further explanation)
Battery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 6 hours of sustained battery usage
Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8GB or above
Processor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMD Ryzen 5 or Intel i5 is minimum requirement
HDD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 128GB minimum
Minimum Requirements – Software	
Operating System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft Windows 11 minimum (Pro version preferred)
Web Browser	Your device must be able to run one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft Edge Mozilla Firefox Google Chrome
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate Virus Scanner Sophos Home <i>Free for Mac or Windows</i>
Software	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft Office 365 <i>Signing in with a college email address provides free Office 365 applications and storage. Do not purchase this license.</i> There are specialty labs with other software in the college.

Other Recommendations or Considerations	
Physical Device Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silicon, leather or hard plastic case Screen protector
Warranty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 years
Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insurance coverage for accidental breakage, theft, etc.

Wireless Compatibility:

The compatibility of your son's portable learning device with the College's wireless network is of critical importance. The College wireless network will only connect devices with 5GHz support and those supporting WPA2 Enterprise security. Devices advertised or marked as "802.11bgn" only, will NOT likely support 5 GHz and devices marked with "802.11agn" or "802.11abgn" should be selected instead. If you are unsure about this when purchasing a device, please ask your sales assistant to direct you to a device with these capabilities.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to purchase one of the “available devices” listed in this guide?

No. You can purchase any device providing it meets the minimum specifications outlined in this document. Please consider the “Device Selection” section when making your decision.

Purchasing from the dedicated site offers several significant advantages, including highly competitive pricing and access to NBD support and maintenance services, which can be more straightforward to execute. All options available on the SPC portal have been verified by our IT department to ensure they meet the necessary standards for use within the college.

Can my son just use his phone?

No. A smartphone does not meet our minimum specifications. Mobile phone use during school hours is prohibited.

Why are minimum specifications required?

Analysis of a broad range of devices has shown that low-spec machines, although capable of performing most required tasks, will not perform efficiently under pressure and over a prolonged period of time, especially in regard to battery life. The outlined minimum specifications provide a reasonable baseline for performance and connectivity.

What IT support will be available at the College?

The IT Department includes a purpose-built Helpdesk facility. This facility will be available to your son and can assist him with connecting to the College’s wireless network and using systems such as Office 365 and generalised troubleshooting of issues.

What happens if my son’s device malfunctions?

Currently parents are required to return the device to the manufacturer or place of purchase for repair or replacement. The advantage of purchasing from our BYODD site means troubleshooting is done over the phone and any repair required, can be organised at home or at the college the next business day (pending parts availability). The College’s IT Department is not responsible for troubleshooting or repairing student-owned devices but will take some basic steps to identify issues and resolve them where appropriate. The IT Department does have a small number of loan devices which students may borrow (for one school day with a note from parents or year coordinators, or for one lesson with a note from the class teacher).

Who is responsible for the purchase and installation of additional hardware/software?

Parents/Students are responsible for all hardware/software purchasing related to their computer; the College does provide the Microsoft Office 365 Suite at no cost to students for the duration of their enrolment. Instructions to install the suite will be provided to students.

Who is responsible for storing and backing up school related files?

Students are solely responsible for the storage, management, and backing up of their own files and at no time will the College be responsible for any loss of data. Students should make use of OneDrive storage which is provided as part of the Microsoft 365 license.

My son is studying Music, Art, or Computing. Will he need a high-end device?

Not necessarily but can be advantageous for working on files outside of the College. Dedicated computer facilities will still be provided by the College for media-intensive courses. We encourage the use of OneDrive cloud storage for storing large work files for these courses. This does not mean that parents cannot purchase devices with additional capabilities for their son/s, however, it is not required nor mandated by the College.

Will my son’s device be covered by the College’s insurance?

No, regardless of who is at fault for the damage. Insurance and/or extended warranty purchasing is the responsibility of the student’s parent or guardian. The College recommends that parents purchase additional dedicated insurance for their son’s device or contact their Home & Contents

insurer for advice. Another advantage of purchasing via the BYODD portal is that all laptops come with a standard 3yr warranty with onsite repair. An additional accidental warranty can also be purchased allowing for repair of accidental damage.

Should I purchase a 3G or 4G compatible device?

No. The College cannot filter internet access via 3G/4G devices or “personal hotspots” and the use of such devices on college grounds remains prohibited. Students bringing smartphones to school will still be required to adhere to the Student Use of Mobile Devices Guidelines.

Why can't my son use his device at recess or lunch?

Young people have plenty of opportunities in class and at home to use technology. Keeping recess and lunch device-free supports interaction, talk and play. Students who need to do homework or assignments during lunch can sit in the research section of the library to use devices for educational purposes. Boys using the library at lunch are not to do so for game-playing or video-viewing.

Supporting Documentation

This BYOD guide should be read in conjunction with all other College policies and documents.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- ICT Acceptable Use Agreement
- Student Use of Mobile Devices Guidelines