

ALFREDTON PRIMARY SCHOOL BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are we doing this?

The nature of education and the world we are preparing our children for is changing rapidly. Institutions such as newspapers and retail stores are struggling to adapt as more and more of the things we all regularly interact with go online. Computers are no longer something to learn about but a tool to utilise. Like books, paper and pencils they need to be available all the time and used when appropriate. Over the last few years the much hyped “on line world” has become much more of a reality meaning we need to not only teach our children to operate within it but to be competent, safe and considerate “netcitizens”. This is best aided by each child having their own individual personal device that they are fully responsible for and can “use for all manner of things”.

Do I have to provide my child with a device?

If providing a device for your child means working longer hours and spending less time with your child then please don't buy one. It is more important that you spend time with your child than it is to buy a device. Getting your child to read to you and creating discipline to do homework in a caring environment is much more important. The school will provide equipment to use during school hours so no child will miss out.

Why can't the school purchase the devices?

Unfortunately, the school is simply not able to fund the purchase of one-to one computers for students, so the device purchase cost must fall to families.

Will my child spend all day in front of a computer? How much time will they spend on it?

Computers are tools to be used for a specific task. Having facilities like Google and museum archives instantly available makes them very useful and important in this fast changing world. It's this quick and ready access that compliments 21st century learning needs, any time, any place!

Access time will be directed by the teacher according to the purpose and the task being taught. We use the devices at various times throughout the key learning areas of numeracy and literacy, science and history. We are happy to demonstrate these programs at any time.

How much time is encouraged to spend after school?

No expectation for time to be spent on the device after school, except to complete any set school work; e.g., project work. It is up to the parents to determine how long is suitable for their children to spend on the device. The children will have access to programs that they use at school to practice skills; e.g., in 'Mathletics' – times tables and fast facts; spelling sites to practice their spelling; 'Sunshine Online' to practice their reading.

What about Handwriting?

Handwriting is still a very important skill and students will still be required and supported to practise and develop their handwriting. These devices are a complimentary tool and for those students with poor handwriting, it will help ensure that it does not impact on the other areas of their education. We want our children to be the best they can be and not be held back from the areas they shine in because they don't shine in handwriting.

What devices are suitable?

For 2020 we recommend a device that can be purchased from Learning with Technologies; a company that specialises in BYOD programs for schools. Learning with Technologies (LWT) is one the largest education IT suppliers in Australia with over 4000 schools as customers as well as a wide variety of Tertiary Organisations, Government Departments and Agencies. We are confident the device offered has all of the specifications required at a reasonable price. More information about Learning with Technologies can be found at their website: <https://www.lwt.com.au/>

The order portal for Alfredton Primary School can be found at:

<http://alfredtonps.orderportal.com.au>

I already have a device. Can I bring it?

It is preferable that you bring the recommended device. This allows for ease of connectivity to our school network and installation of software.

Please note that if you do provide a device that is not recommended by the school, it should meet the following specifications:

- Windows 10
- It should not be a Chrome Book
- 64GB storage/hard disk minimum
- 2GB RAM (prefer 4GB)
- Wifi

What other things are there to consider?

A good, strong, protective case to keep the device safe is good value for money.

What software will my child need?

Your device will come with Windows 10 installed. The Department of Education provides Microsoft Office 365 for use while your child is enrolled at a Victorian Government school. You can install this at home, following the instructions on the website or we will do it at school. Currently, all other software students use will be available free of charge from the school and will be installed at school.

Will the Internet be available on the device?

When the devices are brought to school, we will teach the children how to connect to the school network, which will give them access to the internet while they are at school. This has filters on it which limits the children's access to appropriate sites.

Parents will have to set up their home internet on the device, and ensure they supervise what the children are accessing. Some of the programs we use at school will require internet access at home if the child wishes to continue using it at home.

What supervision is undertaken at school of children accessing social media?

The devices are only used under teacher supervision. There is security on our school system that blocks any sites that are inappropriate or not relevant to education.

As part of training children on how to work with technology, we do run cyber safety sessions within our classes during the year, to make children aware of the dangers and how to respond to them appropriately. These are done through cyber safety sites recommended by the Government - <https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/classroom-resources>

What security do you have for the device; while they are at school?

While at school, the device can be stored in a locked cabinet. It is expected that devices will be taken home every night to be recharged. We also have video surveillance throughout the school.

What about insurance?

Breakages and damage to devices occurs less than is commonly thought, but can happen. Thinking about insurance is important and sometimes these devices can be included on home contents insurance. Check with your insurance company to see if this is possible. Be careful in considering buying extra insurance as it is possible that the payout figure on a 3 year old device could be less than the excess. Speak to your insurance company or broker.

Learning with Technologies offer a range of insurance options when purchasing a device from them.

The school cannot provide insurance cover for student devices.

What do I need to do before my child brings it to school?

Simple instructions for setting up a local account on the device will be provided by the school. We recommend you have these instructions with you when you first turn on the device. If you are not confident about this, simply bring the device to school and the local account will be setup for you.

Once the local account has been setup, allow the child to familiarise themselves with the device. Read the instructions on how to perform a factory reset (sometimes called restore or set defaults). This will be needed if anything goes wrong.

Join the device to the home, wireless network (if available) and install any windows updates. When the child gets to school, we will go through with them how to join the computer to the school network and access all the school resources.