



# BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)

## Information Brochure & Guide for Parents/Guardians

### An Investment in Education

Bring your own device (BYOD) refers to a model of technology use where students bring a personally owned (or family owned) device to school for the purpose of learning.

“The reality is that web-based tools and resources have changed the landscape of learning. Students now have at their fingertips unlimited access to digital content, resources, experts, databases and communities of interest. By effectively leveraging such resources, school authorities not only have the opportunity to deepen student learning, but can also develop digital literacy, fluency and citizenship in students that will prepare them for the high-tech world in which they will live, learn and work.” (Alberta Education, 2012).

### Device Selection

We understand it can be a minefield trying to work out what to buy which is why we've developed this guide to assist parents/guardians and students to choose the right device for school.

Before acquiring a laptop to use at school please refer to the Minimum Device Specifications and Recommended Device Specifications on the next page. Please note:

- **Surface RT, Windows 10 (and Prior), Windows 11 in S-Mode, Linux, Chromebooks and Android are NOT SUPPORTED.**
- No Mobile Phones are allowed on the BYO network
- Students are permitted to connect up to 3 devices
- Devices that have less than 128GB storage space are not supported
- Devices that have an Intel Atom or Celeron Processor have performance limitations

Additional things to consider when choosing a device:

- **Budget and Life-Span** – typically devices should last 3 years
- **Insurance and Warranty** – strongly recommend inclusion in household insurance and extended 3yr warranty and/or ADP
- **Storage** – Armored hard carry case/sleeve to put in school bag



The movement to a model where students bring personally owned devices to school is inevitable if schools are to maintain access to the tools required to provide effective contemporary learning experiences.

### BYOD Laptop Program at GGSHS

In 2025, all students will need to have their own laptop (Bring Your Own Device) or hire a laptop from the school.

Connecting through the BYOD program gives access to the following:

- A Network Software License – required to enable connection to our network, internet and printers.
- Additional Educational Software licenses
- Technical support to enable connection to the network.



### Features of BYOD

- ✓ Supports 21<sup>st</sup> century learning
- ✓ Bridges the home / school gap
- ✓ Personalised learning
- ✓ Greater access to information
- ✓ Differentiated learning
- ✓ Builds responsibility
- ✓ Builds organisational skills
- ✓ Increased student motivation
- ✓ Increased student engagement
- ✓ Promotes creativity
- ✓ Greater collaboration
- ✓ Sustainable technology use

## Purchasing a Laptop

Purchasing a device with our recommended specifications will ensure the best outcome for school-based support and interface with our IT network. Although other laptops can work with our systems, we know from experience that there are added challenges.

**PLEASE NOTE: iPads and other Tablets will not suffice. Surface RT, Windows 10 (and Prior), Windows 11 in S-Mode, Linux, Chromebooks and Android are NOT SUPPORTED. Devices that have less than 128GB storage are not supported as they do not have enough available free space to install required software.**

## Recommended Device Specifications

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Device Type      | PC Laptop or 2 in 1 PC Laptop                              |
| Processor        | Intel core i5 or higher<br>(ARM not currently supported)   |
| RAM              | 8GB or greater   |
| Battery Life     | 8hrs or greater  |
| Hard Drive       | SSD (Solid State Drive) 256GB or higher                    |
| Screen Size      | 11" minimum  |
| Operating System | Windows 11   |
| Wireless         | Capable of 5ghz  |
| Software         | Office 365   |
| Warranty         | Extended to 3 or 4 years with accidental damage protection |
| Features         | Keyboard, USB Port, headphone port, protective carry case  |

## Minimum Device Specifications

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Device Type      | PC Laptop, 2 in 1 Laptop or Mac Laptop  |
| Processor        | Intel Dual Core Pentium or higher<br>(ARM not currently supported)  |
| RAM              | 4GB RAM minimum   |
| Battery Life     | 6 hours+  |
| Hard Drive       | 128GB SSD or above  |
| Operating System | Windows 11<br>Mac OSX 11.7 (Big Sur) or higher  |
| Wireless         | Capable of 5ghz   |
| Software         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office 365. Students can download Office 365 for free at <a href="https://microsoft365.com/">https://microsoft365.com/</a></li> <li><b>OneNote is a MANDATORY REQUIREMENT</b> for all students</li> <li>Antivirus – an up to date version of a trusted Antivirus Software Suite (Windows Defender will suffice).</li> <li>Internet Browser e.g. Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari etc</li> </ul> |
| Features         | Keyboard, USB Port, headphone port  |

## Note on Microsoft Family

Microsoft Family Features may not allow BYO devices access to the school's network. Please add <http://byo.eq.edu.au> to the list of allowed domains.

## Note on Windows 11 in S-Mode

Windows 11 S-Mode is a version of Windows 11 designed for security and performance because it only runs applications from the Microsoft Store. In order for the device to connect to the BYO network, the device will need to be switched out of S-Mode. Instructions are available on the Microsoft support website here: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/4456067/windows-10-switch-out-of-s-mode>

## Vendor Portals

As a service we provide parents with access to laptop portals to assist in the purchase of suitable, quality devices at the best price. The vendor portals include a variety of brands and a range of price points.

The portal laptops have been carefully selected to meet the following criteria:

- **Durability** – devices built for education with strength and reliable battery life (these are not available in retail stores)
- **Warranty and Accidental Damage Protection (recommended)** warranty and insurances that are not available to the retail market.
- **Compatibility** – operating systems that are compatible with the school's managed network
- **Price** – educational pricing, payment plans and interest free options.

**Please note, the school does not endorse any one supplier, parents/guardians can choose to purchase from where ever they desire (online or in-store).**

To purchase via one of the vendor portals, please click on the links below or navigate to the website URL.

### The School Locker (Harvey Norman)

[theschoollocker.com.au/catalog/category/view/s/technology/id/14784/](https://theschoollocker.com.au/catalog/category/view/s/technology/id/14784/)

### HP Vendor Portal

<https://www.hp.com/au-en/shop/byod/gingin>

**Dell Vendor Portal. Username: [ginginshs](#) Password: [parent](#)**  
[datashop-qld.datacom.com.au/ginginshs](https://datashop-qld.datacom.com.au/ginginshs)

### Apple Education Portal

[apple.com/au-hed/shop](https://apple.com/au-hed/shop)

## How to Onboard your BYOD Process

1. Acquire Device (according to minimum specifications).
2. Download and read the Student BYOD Charter Agreement available from the school website:  
<https://ginginshs.eq.edu.au/supportandresources/formsanddocuments/documents/byod/byod-charter-agreement.pdf>
3. Follow the steps in the video below to connect the device at home (view the video relevant to the device's operating system).
4. Windows:<https://mediasite.eq.edu.au/mediasite/Play/a0ad56c38e8e45459ffb6a852d71d1901d>



5. MacOS:<https://mediasite.eq.edu.au/mediasite/Play/a7d74c4e9d394f31b73f727a0c1e90fb1d>



6. Bring device to school daily for use in class.

## Loan Equipment Terms & Conditions

Loan devices are ONLY issued when a repair ticket has been presented to the IT Department or at the discretion of the IT Department. Length of loan is no longer than 10 consecutive school days. Day-loan devices are to be borrowed from 8.45am onwards and must be returned by 3.00pm the same day. Laptops may not be taken home. Any loss or damage must be reported immediately to the IT Department. The borrower and their parent/caregiver is responsible for any damage to the laptop and agree to pay for any repair costs that are not covered by the manufacturer's warranty. There is no cover for negligence, abuse or malicious damage.

## iPad's

Gin Gin State High School recommends the use of a laptop, however iPads are allowed on the BYO network. Students are required to have a laptop but they are permitted to connect an iPad as an additional device.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What should I do before bringing my Laptop to school?

Follow the Onboarding Process as directed.

### Does the school provide Technical Support?

IT staff only assist with basic connectivity support – connecting the laptop to the school network, accessing school drives, school printing and Office 365. All maintenance and repairs for the laptop, operating system, software and/or apps are the responsibility of the family.

### Does the school provide software for my BYOD laptop?

The Microsoft Office 365 is available free of charge for five student downloads at home. Specialist software (e.g. Adobe Creative Suite) required for some subjects will be provided to students enrolled in those courses.

### Can I bring my charger to school?

All chargers are to be left at home unless permission has been sought from your student's Teacher or Admin. It is the student's responsibility to attend school every day with a fully charged laptop.

### Will the school protect the device from virus attacks?

No. Virus protection remains the responsibility of the owner.

### Do I need to back up my laptop?

Yes. The student is responsible for the backup of all data. OneDrive (work and school) is provided and highly recommended to be used. Work stored on the laptop needs to be backed-up in case the device encounters a problem such as a hardware failure.

### What happens if my BYOD laptop is broken?

Gin Gin State High School may provide access to (for a limited period) a day-loan laptop should your student's BYOD laptop fail and require repair. The device offered is an 11.6" laptop style device that meets our schools minimum device specifications. See Loan Equipment Terms & Conditions for more details.

### We already have a laptop at home; can I use it at school?

Yes, as long as it meets the minimum specifications outlined in this document.

### Do I need 4G or 5G Services?

No. Private 4G or 5G services are not to be used at school. The school has an effective wireless network available and it is Education Queensland's policy that whilst at school the school web proxy must be used.

### Will I need to bring the laptop to school every day?

Students are required to have a laptop at school every day, either their own device or hire a school laptop