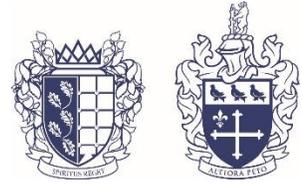


FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Do I need to buy a new device for my child?

All pupils on the BYOD scheme will need to bring a device to school every day. Some pupils will already have a suitable device that they can bring in to school. We have provided some indicative specifications for different types of devices for families buying a new device. However, we have worked with our school supplier to provide purchasing options which may be of interest to some parents. Details of these options can be found on the BYOD page of the school website.

What financial options are there for purchasing a device?

We have worked with our school supplier to provide purchasing options at discounted educational rates on three recommended devices. Every purchase comes with a 3 year warranty for the device. Whilst the school has arranged competitive pricing for these recommended models through LEAD IT Services, families will be purchasing devices directly with LEAD IT Services and therefore the contract is between you and LEAD and not with the school itself. If you still wish to purchase a device online or from the high street, that is fine so long as it meets the device specification.

Note also that there is a Dell Advantage Scheme for students that you may wish to take advantage if you are looking at one of these devices. With just a school email address required to claim your voucher, you can save up to 20% on some devices. See [here](#) for further details.

Will there be some recommended devices?

Through our recommended school supplier we are providing the option to purchase one of three Lenovo devices that will allow your child to access the core toolset of skills and applications that they will be using across the curriculum.

What if our child has a laptop that we only recently bought and which meets all the specification points but is not touchscreen?

We recognise that the purchase of a device is a significant financial commitment. The touchscreen functionality with stylus is the central functionality of the device that makes the scheme so successful and transforms what is possible with the technology in teaching and learning. Pupils and families in this situation should contact the school about how best to support their child whilst an appropriate device is sought. In the interim, we will support those pupils as best we can so that they can access their learning activities in the classroom.

Why is touchscreen an essential feature?

We are now well-versed in the use of devices with touchscreens in the classroom, and digital pens, and their use has proved most effective and transformational in the classroom. Indeed, touchscreens for general purpose devices are now becoming commonplace rather than exceptional. Be it drawing atomic structures in Chemistry, composing music on a staff, annotating and analysing maps in Geography or peer and self-assessing their work, the possibilities across the curriculum are endless and we are continuing to identify new ways in which the technology can be used to the benefit of the learning in the classroom.

How will the device be connected to the school network?

The pupils' devices will be connected to the school's dedicated BYOD WIFI network, separate from the school's core WIFI network. Your child will receive support on how their device can be connected to the BYOD network, in BYOD introductory sessions and via help guides that we will be providing. Support will also be provided by the IT Department for any pupils who experience issues trying to log on to the school network using their personal device.

Will the device be used in every class?

We always aim to provide your child with an effective learning environment where different learning and teaching activities are used to help your child achieve. This means that our approach to the use of technology is a blended one: it

is not our intention to move away from the more “traditional” methods of learning, but to provide access to the most appropriate method for each learning activity – using technology alongside class discussion, written and practical work.

Where should work be saved?

We already provide access to Microsoft Office365 and your child should save their work within the Office365 OneDrive space which provides more than enough space for their school work (1TB). This cloud space is available to all pupils from in school and from home, regardless of the device that they are working on.

How will we try to ensure Safe use of devices?

We already have a clear and unambiguous Acceptable Use Policy and this still applies when a personal device is being used. There is also a comprehensive approach to educating our pupils on the safe use of technology, through support sessions, talks, PSHEE lessons and more.

Where will the device be kept when not in use?

Your child has a locker in which they can keep the device (preferably in a carrying case) when not in use during the school day (eg. break times or when at clubs/activities). These have all recently been updated. Pupils can keep their devices in a locker if they are attending after school practices.

How will we help to keep the pupils and their devices safe outside school?

The school already takes personal security very seriously with regards the pupils’ use of mobile phones outside school. As we already do, we will continue to work hard to educate the pupils not to have their devices out on display outside school and that they should be tucked away in their bags at all times (including train journeys for example).

How will a device affect the weight of the pupils’ school bags?

We expect the weight of the pupils’ bags to decrease with their introduction to the BYOD scheme, with many departments using digital/online textbooks.

What support will there be should my child have a technical issue with their device?

Should your child have a technical issue with their device in school, we will provide them with a loan device that they can use until the device is repaired so that she can still access all the lesson activities.

What about insurance?

The school insurance cover for personal possessions is limited to £250 per article. However, if the device is insured elsewhere (eg. with your home insurance) then your child’s device will not be covered by the school insurance policy. The school insurers recommend that parents insure their devices under their home insurance (or indeed check whether they are already covered) or an additional gadget insurance.