

2026

BYOD Laptop Program

Information and Procedures Handbook

This handbook has been developed as a guide for parents and students to assist in making their own decisions about which BYOD device is best for their situation.

Please note: This handbook is subject to change, the most current handbook will always be available on the school website.

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Use of Laptops at Burnside SHS

Burnside State High School enriches 21st century education delivery through the use of technology. It is a tool that enhances pedagogy, facilitates the creation and sharing of knowledge and allows differentiation in learning. Technology is more than a method of retrieving information.

The use of a laptop and other technologies:

- Enhances independence and self-initiated learning among students
- Extends student learning beyond the classroom
- Promotes the development of 21st Century teaching and learning
- Enables the delivery of ICT as an Australian Curriculum general capability

ICT in Senior Curriculum

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) has identified and defined a set of 21st century skills based on national and international research about the skills students need in the 21st century. These skills include critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and teamwork, personal and social skills, and **information and communication technologies (ICT)** skills.

The 21st century skills will help prepare Queensland students by giving them the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to be equipped for the demands of higher education, work and life, and to participate effectively in the community and the economy in a complex and rapidly changing world.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

The BYOD program at Burnside allows students to bring personally-owned devices such as laptops to school for educational purposes. Students are expected to bring their own laptop to school every day. Those students previously enrolled in the Horizons Excellence Program may continue to use their horizons device if it is in good working condition. Students are encouraged to check their Horizons Device's remaining warranty and Accidental Damage Protection conditions with the school IT Help Desk.

The BYOD device from home must fit the minimum hardware and software specifications as outlined in this handbook.

The school supplies students with:

- Wireless connectivity to part of our secured school network through the secured BYOD Gateway via a security certificate and network password
- Internet connection
- Access to learning materials
- Access to school network drives and printers through the Gateway via installation of software provided by the school

Parents are required to supply and are responsible for:

- Supplying a device that meets the minimum hardware and software specifications as outlined in this handbook.
- A laptop – it is highly recommended that the device provided is a laptop.
- Any repairs required.

The IT Department at Burnside State High School:

- Will provide assistance to connect the device to the BYOD Gateway.
- Will not provide software or hardware repairs to the BYOD device as it is privately owned.

Security of BYOD, Damage/Theft Insurance, Behaviour

Suggestions about ensuring the laptop is safe at school include:

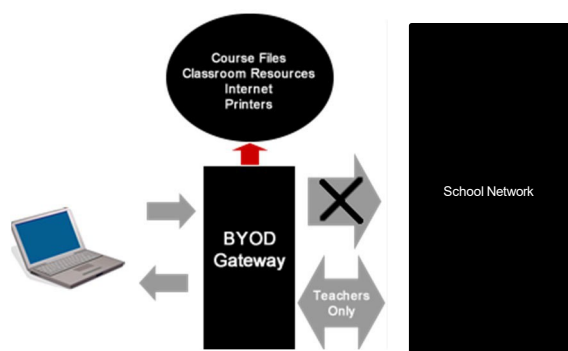
- Keeping the laptop with you at all times – It is each student's responsibility to keep their laptop with them at all times.
- Consider engraving the device – Engraving the bottom of the laptop with the student's name ie First Name and Surname has helped school staff to locate lost laptops and return them to their owners.
- Home and Contents Insurance – Check with your Home and Contents Insurance company regarding damage or theft of the device.
- Inappropriate Behaviour – While the school will continue to deal with inappropriate behaviour in line with existing policies, the school is not liable for any damage or replacement costs incurred while the device is at school or travelling to and from school. Any student who does damage or steal another student's laptop may be disciplined according to the Student Code of Conduct.
- Storage in a locker – Lockers are available to students . Students need to supply their own padlock and use an unused locker.
- The school strongly advises the use of a "hard case" protective case for their laptop.

BYOD – Conditions of Use

When using a privately owned laptop at Burnside State High School, or connecting it to the School network, we agree that:

- The device must at all times be connected to the BYOD Gateway when on school premises and in use. When connected to the BYOD Gateway, all activities will be logged. School ICT guidelines are to be followed in accordance with the completed and signed Computer Use Agreement (signed on enrolment).
- The device will only be used for educational purposes when connected to and using school services.
- Burnside State High School will only provide technical support to enable connectivity to the school network via the BYOD Gateway that provides access to student files required for class, internet and printing services.
- It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the private laptop is secured when not in use. Burnside State High School takes no responsibility for theft, loss, vandalism, damage or unauthorised access to private laptops.
- BYOD devices must not be charged using school power outlets or by plugging into school owned computers. All private laptops must be brought to school fully charged.
- It is the responsibility of the student to back up data on the private laptop eg to an external hard drive, USB or OneDrive.
- Any software purchased under Education Queensland agreements must be removed from the private laptop as per the conditions of the agreement. This includes if the student leaves Burnside State High School. Any privately owned software installed on the laptop must be age appropriate, follow copyright legislation and not cause offence.
- Burnside State High School and the Education Department reserves the right to restrict access and use of any private laptop used on the school campus, whether it is connected to the school network or not. Access to the school network and permission to use the private laptop on school grounds will be withdrawn as a consequence of any inappropriate use and/or security breach. Cloud Based Services such as iCloud, Google Drive or Dropbox must not be used at school to store, send or access information at school.

How the BYOD Gateway Works



Borrowing a “Stay at School” Laptop – Conditions of Use

Burnside State High School has a fleet of laptops available for any student to borrow on a daily basis.

About Stay at School Laptops:

- Stay at School laptops are available for borrowing at the IT Help Desk in B Block from 8.00am each day and must be returned by 3.00pm on the same day.
- Students must present their student card in order to borrow a stay at school laptop.
- The laptop must stay at school.
- The laptop must be returned to the IT Help Desk in B Block by 3.00pm on the day it was borrowed.
- The borrower and their parent are responsible for any damage to the laptop and agree to pay for any repair cost. Stay at School laptops are checked for damage by IT staff every day upon return.
- All policies and guidelines as per the Student Code of Conduct apply to the use of a stay at school laptop.
- If the laptop is lost while borrowed, the cost of replacing it will be required.

NOTE: Failure to return the laptop may result in the student not being allowed to borrow a school laptop.

Borrowing an “Equity Loan” Laptop – Conditions of Use

Burnside State High School also has a fleet of laptops available for any student to borrow for an extended period of time.

About Equity Loan Laptops:

- Equity Loan Laptops are laptops that can be borrowed from the school to be used a student's “personal school device”.
- Students must present their student card, sign the Equity Loan Laptop form and pay the nominated fee in order to borrow a stay at school laptop.
- The laptop can then be taken home by the student and used a personal school device.
- The laptop must be returned to the IT Help Desk in B Block by the end of the nominated period of time paid for.
- The borrower and their parent are responsible for any damage to the laptop and agree to pay for any repair cost. Stay at School laptops are checked for damage by IT staff every day upon return.
- All policies and guidelines as per the Student Code of Conduct apply to the use of a stay at school laptop.
- If the laptop is lost while borrowed, the cost of replacing it will be required.

A copy of the form and information of the payment costs can be found on the school website below:

<https://burnsideshs.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology>

NOTE: Failure to return the laptop may result in the student not being allowed to borrow a school laptop.

Web Based Services Consent

Permission to Use Cloud, Web Based and App Services

A consent for online services form is sent home at the beginning of each phase of learning. Information pertaining to the use of these services is outlined within the agreement form. Services outlined within this form have undergone a risk assessment by the department and teachers in charge of these activities will have read the risk assessment and implemented any recommended strategies for use. If there are any concerns regarding the use of these programs please notify your child's teacher so this can be looked into further.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I need to bring the device to school every day?

Yes. Laptops are essential tools in each classroom.

How do I protect my BYOD device?

It is the student's responsibility to have their device with them at all times. Protective equipment such as bags or cases need to be organised by the parent and student to keep these devices safe while at school, and travelling to and from school. It is the responsibility of the student to look after the device while at school and kept securely in bags. Lockers are available for hire through administration.

Do I need to back up?

Yes. It is the student's responsibility at all times to back up all files. The school assessment policy clearly states that loss of data due to technology problems is not an acceptable reason for assessment extensions.

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

Yes, hardware and software minimum specifications are provided in this document.

Will every device work inside the Education Queensland network?

No. Some devices with low specifications have been found to not connect to the EQ network. These devices may have difficulty with the security filters used by Education Queensland.

Will the school assist me with network connection settings at school?

SOME Assistance will be provided. Students will be provided with a handout of instructions and videos available from the IT Help Desk at school. Instructions and videos will also be available on the school website. School technicians will assist students connect their BYO device to the network. Students can also visit the IT Help Desk before and after school and during break times.

Will the school protect the device from virus attacks?

Virus protection remains the responsibility of the owner. Please note the school does **NOT** support the following Anti-Virus programs: Norton Family, AVG, Avast and TotalAV.

4G/5G/Hotspot Services?

Private 4G or 5G services are prohibited from use at school.

Does the school provide software for my BYOD device?

The Microsoft Office Suite is available free of charge for five student licenses at home. Specialist software required for some subjects will be provided to students enrolled in those courses.

Can I take my BYOD device to IT for repair?

The IT Department cannot perform any software or hardware repairs on a privately owned device.

Will the school assist me with home internet connection settings and issues?

No. Your home internet provider or local computer technician can assist you with these enquiries.

Will the teacher be able to provide technical support in class?

No. The IT Help Desk is open before and after school and during break times to assist students connect their BYO devices to the network.

Can I bring my charger to school?

All chargers are to be left at home. It is the student's responsibility to attend school every day with a fully charged laptop.

What is deemed inappropriate?

All illegal (unlicensed) software; pirated music or videos; defamatory documents, or images, or any content not suitable for viewing by persons under the age of 18 are deemed inappropriate.

BYOD HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS

The school recommends that all laptops used by students meet the minimum specifications below to enable suitability for curriculum based activities. The minimum specifications provided reflect the requirements for connection to the BYOD Gateway. Our Computer Technicians will make every effort to enable connectivity of devices which meet these minimum specifications, assuming there are no technical or other issues outside of their control. An attempt will be made to connect other devices, but parents and students should be aware that connectivity may not be possible if there are technical or other issues. Please note the following device types and software are **NOT** supported on the school network: Chromebooks, Android devices and Copilot + (ARM devices). Norton Family, AVG, Avast and TotalAV Anti-Virus software.

Student subject choices and interests should be considered when deciding what device to purchase.



Burnside State High School BYO Device Specifications



STANDARD DEVICE

Recommended for standard subjects for Years 7 - 12

Device Type	Microsoft Windows Laptop Apple Mac Laptop
Operating System	Windows 11 MacOS 15 (Sequoia) or later
Processor	Intel N-Series or higher or AMD equivalent
Screen Size	11" - 13"
Memory/RAM	8GB
Storage	128GB SSD Minimum 256GB SSD Recommended
Wireless	Wi-Fi 6 802.11ax - 5Ghz compatible
Battery Life	6+ hours

PERFORMANCE DEVICE

Recommended for Years 11 - 12 enrolled in the following subjects:
Digital Solutions, Drones and Modern Flight, Film and TV, Graphics, Media Arts in Practice

Device Type	Microsoft Windows Laptop Apple Mac Laptop
Operating System	Windows 11 MacOS 15 (Sequoia) or later
Processor	Intel Ultra Core 5/i5 or higher or AMD equivalent
Screen Size	13" - 14"
Memory/RAM	8GB - 16GB
Storage	256GB - 512 SSD
Wireless	Wi-Fi 6 802.11ax - 5Ghz compatible
Battery Life	6+ hours

Software	- Microsoft 365 - free license available for students - PDF Reader - Windows Security Antivirus
Note	Windows 11 S Mode NOT compatible: Devices with Windows 11 S Mode can switch out of S Mode at no extra charge. Instructions on school website.
Devices not Supported	- Chromebooks - Android Devices - iPads 2.4Ghz Wireless Unsupported - Copilot + PC's and other Snapdragon and ARM processors

Students can prepare their device to enrol on the school network by following instructions on the [school website](#)