BYOD FAQs

How will the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program improve learning?
With greater access to real-time information, digital learning resources, educational software and collaborative work spaces, students experience higher levels of motivation and engagement in their learning. Typically students experience initial improvement in areas such as organisational and technological skills, revision, writing and editing work. With the development of presentations and other multimedia projects, students experience subsequent improvement in analytical, presentation and speaking skills.

Involvement in ‘virtual work spaces’ creates opportunities for collaboration and communication, improving relationships in the classroom through a greater level of interaction between students, their peers and their teachers. A networked environment, where it is easy to share developing work and research with peers and teachers, is the environment students will live and work in during secondary school and the future. Students working together and providing solutions to real-world problems will create links beyond the classroom and move levels of thinking beyond a simple knowledge framework to complex analysis and evaluation.

Increased levels of learning both in and out of school with an emphasis on higher order thinking, creative thinking and expression will be promoted.

Why are we offering a BYOD program?
Currently students share school based technology (laptops and ipads) at a ratio of about 1 device per 5 students. Students having their own device will allow far greater access to the digital world and the amazing benefits it provides.

Why have we chosen these particular devices (ipads)?
Keeping in mind that the focus of a 1:1 program (one student to one device) is on the learning rather than the technology, a decision was made after talking to the Year 4-6 teachers as to which technology would be most appropriate to enhance the teaching and learning at Clifton Springs Primary School. After researching and seeking advice from school Information & Communication Technology (ICT) specialists and other schools, we have chosen the nominated devices because of:

- the intuitive and user-friendly nature of the devices
- the robust nature of the devices and that they are not as susceptible to viruses and have fewer maintenance issues than other devices
- the extremely wide range of high quality apps now available for them (many free, others at low cost)
- their portability and child-friendly size

Will my child’s internet usage be monitored at school?
The school has an internet filtering system that aims to stop inappropriate material reaching the students. Teacher supervision is also important in monitoring student usage and online behaviour. CSPS is committed to online cyber safety education for all students. This will be an ongoing focus across the curriculum as we continue to reinforce strategies for appropriate and safe behaviour online. All students and parents will sign an Acceptable Usage Agreement and undertake cyber safety training prior to beginning the BYOD program.

Will students be able to access inappropriate apps?
Students will not be able to download apps without a password for the iTunes App Store. It is a family decision as to whether students are made known these passwords or not. It is the responsibility of families to monitor the apps / content on student devices.

What if students play on the devices during the school day instead of going outside for recess?
The devices will provide additional support for student learning, and therefore students will be supervised as they would be for any learning activity. Students WILL NOT be permitted to take either their own devices, or school owned devices, outside at recess or lunch times.
How will the devices be secure at school?
Each classroom has a lockable storeroom. These will be set up to securely store every child’s device while they are at school. The devices will only be removed when they are required for learning and to be taken home each night for charging.

Will my child have to share their device?
No. Students will only use their own personal device. Students may work in pairs or small groups, but they will only ever use their personal device.

Can the students print from their devices while at school?
Yes, we have organised a way to print from all the selected devices. However, we will be encouraging students to 'think before you print'.

What happens if my child doesn’t have a device?
If this is the case your child will have access to the school’s existing technology to support their learning.

What apps does my child need?
The school will send home a list of required apps which are expected to be downloaded from the app store. These will all be free apps.

Who pays for the apps that are not free?
The school will identify a core set of paid apps that will be required for each Apple device. The school will purchase these apps at a discount from Apple and provide parents with a code to use when downloading the software. The school’s ability to purchase apps on your behalf translates to a saving of 50% on app store prices.

Will my child be able to install other apps and games?
Yes, however the purchase of all apps, games, music etc must be made with an Apple ID which requires a password. The owner of the Apple ID must be at least 13 years of age and it is strongly recommended that this is a parent. Hence parents will have control over the Apple ID password and what is installed on the iPad.

Will students be able to store music on the Devices?
Yes, students can store their music on the devices. Again this requires the use of the Apple ID which the parent should have control over. It is the responsibility of the account owner to ensure that music is appropriate for school.

What happens if inappropriate apps or music are on the iPad?
If school staff notice that inappropriate apps or music are on the device, the parent will be contacted and asked to remove the inappropriate material. Educational applications will be considered the priority on the devices and the school reserves the right to request information which does not support educational outcomes be removed if it impedes the tool’s intended purpose or is taking up too much space on the device.

Will students be able to use Facebook on the device?
Users of Facebook MUST be 13 years of age or older, hence Facebook should not be used on the devices. Access to Facebook is blocked at school.

How will the school regulate student use of the Internet at home?
The school is unable to regulate student internet usage at home. We encourage parents to be aware of what their child is doing on any internet enabled device (computer, iPad, iPhone, iPod) and strongly encourage the use of these devices in family areas only (not in private areas such as bedrooms).

Do devices need to have a case?
Yes, all devices must have a protective case and screen protection.
Who is responsible for backing up the data on the devices?
Families are responsible for ensuring data is backed up at home. We will not be backing up student devices at school.
We WILL be showing students how to save individual files and work samples to our school server / online platform.

Will the battery last all day?
The batteries of all the selected devices will last all day with no problems at all. The iPad has an up to 10 hour battery life and that is more than adequate for a day’s use in the classroom. There is an expectation that devices will be bought to school fully charged each day. There will NOT be charging facilities at school for your child’s devices. This reinforces to the students the importance of being responsible for their device and ensuring they are prepared for each day of learning.

Should my child have the admin password for their device?
NO. We strongly recommend that parents are the device administrators and that you are the only ones that have the passwords required to download applications and software.

Will students use ICT too much for schoolwork?
The BYOD device will complement the existing school curriculum by providing appropriate digital learning tools in balance with more traditional learning tools. The goals of the curriculum are supported, not changed by the use of these devices. Students will use these devices where they serve a purpose, for instance, in research, data analysis and generating presentations. Wireless access will allow for ‘just-in-time’ learning where students can search for information or collaborate with others in real-time. Students will be able to use their school files at home and be able to collaborate with their peers.

How much time will my child spend using the iPad each day?
The iPad becomes a tool amongst many at the disposal of the teacher and students throughout the day. With any learning experience, the teacher is best placed to decide which tool will be most effective in meeting the intended learning outcome. iPads are not intended to be a replacement or a substitute for any of the more conventional tools teachers have at their disposal. It is the school’s belief that any well rounded approach to education involves balanced access to a variety of tools. iPads simply increase the number of tools at the teacher’s disposal and are only used when they are the best tool for the job.

Will learning outcomes be evaluated differently?
Students will continue to be evaluated against the Australian Victorian Essential Learning Standards (AUSVELS). The devices complement the existing school curriculum by providing digital learning tools that link in with planned classroom activities. Wireless access points at schools will foster collaboration and teamwork, allowing students to search for information together and share the learning experience.

Will they be doing word processing?
Yes, they will be doing word processing on them and this can be done by either using the touch screen or using a keyboard insert.

Will the students still be writing?
They sure will! The students will still be writing. It is still important that handwriting is neat and legible for students to be successful writers. However, we as teachers and parents must also recognise that typing is also a valid way of writing and one that most of us use far more frequently than handwriting. As our students move through their education and into employment, the need for them to be competent typists is only going to increase.

Won’t students be able to ‘cheat’ by using the spell checker?
The spell checker is a tool to allow students immediate feedback on the correct spelling of words they use. It supplements our existing school spelling program, but does not replace it. We will still be explicitly teaching spelling from Foundation to Grade 6.
Will teachers check up on what students have on their devices?
All devices will be made available to teachers, the school Principal or school technician on request. If any member of staff believe that a student may have inappropriate content on their device (eg: photos) they will inform the student that they are going to conduct a device check.

What if my child’s device gets damaged, destroyed or stolen at school?
The school expects students to follow our acceptable use policy in relation to the appropriate handling of all ICT equipment at school (including BYOD devices). Students are wholly responsible for the care and safety of their device. As with any private property brought to school by students, BYOD devices are not insured by the school or covered by school insurance, and the Department accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged devices. We strongly advise parents to obtain appropriate insurance should they wish to cover their child’s BYOD device.

What if I don't sign the Agreement?
Parents/carers and students are required to sign the Agreement regarding the acceptable use of internet and equipment. If this Agreement is not signed and returned, the student will be excluded from the BYOD program. They will have access to a school owned and managed device that will remain at school.

Inappropriate use of a device
In the situation where a student breaks the Agreement for safe and appropriate use of their device, there will be consequences as set out in the Agreement.

Is 16GB enough?
16GB will be enough to store everything your child will need for school, however if your child is likely to have additional music, software, etc on their device then you may look at purchasing an ipad with 32GB.

Is the program compulsory?
No, the BYOD program is not compulsory. We have done our research and the decisions we make are deeply engrained in proven educational research. But ultimately each family will make a decision based on their individual circumstances.

Can I join up at any time?
Yes, you can decide to join the BYOD program at any time during the year, however you will still need to attend an information/cyber safety briefing before your child brings their own device.