



Years 3-6 Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program

Dear Parents,

At Barnier Public School, our mission is to develop future focused learners who think critically and creatively, work collaboratively and are able to communicate effectively. In working towards this goal, our school will be continuing our BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) initiative with all students in Years 3-6 in 2025.

From the beginning of Term 1 2025 every student in Stage 2 and Stage 3 is encouraged to bring their own personal digital device to school every day which will be used to innovatively implement the NSW curriculum.

Advantages of our BYOD program include:

- Students will have daily access to a range of educational Applications used at school and at home;
- Any work done on the device will be available for students to access in the home setting and allow them to share their learning with parents/carers;
- Students will not have to share a device with other students, allowing them to work at their own pace;
- Students will learn how to value and responsibly care for their own device;
- Increased engagement through tasks that are individualised and require students to think creatively, problem solve, collaborate and demonstrate their learning in unique and individual ways;
- Students will begin to learn how to authentically integrate the use of technology into their daily work and to utilise it so as to maximise the greatest educational benefit.

The school will put in place several measures to ensure the care and safety of devices brought to school.

These measures will include but are not be limited to:

- Clearly communicating behavioural and usage expectations to all staff and students;
- Locking devices in classrooms during the day;
- Only using devices inside classrooms unless under the direction of a teacher;
- Teachers ensuring that other students are not using the device at any time.

To assist students who would like to participate in our BYOD initiative in 2025, Barnier Public School has partnered with 'Learning with Technologies' to organise discounted prices on a range of specific devices. This company also offers a range of warranty options and interest free finance for approved applicants. Utilising this company to purchase a device is only one option and we encourage parents and carers to carefully read all terms and conditions of any company in which devices are purchased from. More information about how parents can access deals negotiated can be accessed via the link below:

<https://barnierps.orderportal.com.au/>

Although we are unable to provide financial assistance, a number of arrangements can be made for students and families who may be experiencing financial difficulty or who currently do not have access to a personal device at home. Please contact the office to arrange a meeting to discuss this with an executive member of staff.

To ensure a smooth transition at the beginning of the school year, students will participate in a number of digital citizenship programs and activities in the first few weeks of Term 1. This will further develop their understanding of personal safety whilst using the Internet, and reinforce the BYOD policy and expectations of behaviour. The use of personal devices will not begin until these programs are completed.

We are encouraging parents to purchase a small to medium sized laptop/Chromebook as they are the easiest for students to use and work well within a school setting. Laptops/Chromebooks vary in price and capability which give all families the ability to participate in this program. See below for the specifications clearly set out by the NSW Department of Education that will support the BYOD program in our school. **NSW Department of Education Specifications:**

Wireless Connectivity	The department's Wi-Fi network operates on 2.4Ghz or 5Ghz dual band wireless to access the school network
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 10/11 (nothing under 10) Mac OSX (minimum Catalina. Ventura is preferred) Chrome OS (Chromebook)
Software and Apps	Access to Microsoft 365 and Google Suite for Education will be provided to all students Adobe Premier Elements and Adobe Photoshop Elements PDF viewer Google Chrome Web Browser
Storage	Minimum 32GB (Chromebook) 128GB (Windows 10)
RAM	4GB minimum for Chromebook devices 4GB Minimum with a solid state hard drive (SSHD) but 8GB or more is recommended for devices with Windows 10 or 11
Hardware Features	Built in camera and microphone
Display	Integrated display no smaller than 11 inches
Pointer	Touch screen or track pad
Weight	2kg maximum
Accessories	Carry Case: Supply a carry case or skin to protect the device Insurance and warranty: Be aware of the terms of insurance policies/warranties for the device. The school will not accept responsibility for loss or damage

Our school BYOD policy can be found on the school website. For further information on NSW Department of Education guidelines on *Student use of digital devices and online services* please refer to the Department of Education's website: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2020-0471>

Please take the time to read the BYOD school policy and our 'Frequently Asked Questions sheet'.

We look forward to another exciting and innovative year in 2025.

Kind Regards,

Adam Vincent,
Technology Coordinator

Mandy Hollis
Principal

BARNIER PUBLIC SCHOOL

Stages 2 & 3 BYOD PROGRAM - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is it mandatory to bring your own device to school? No. In every classroom there will be devices for students who do not have access to a personal device for any reason.

Will technology replace explicit teaching? No. All teachers will continue to provide high quality and explicit teaching and learning opportunities for all students. The technology will be used to highly engage our students, support researched based quality teaching and learning programs and promote collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving and innovation within the classroom.

I already have a laptop and/or tablet at home - Can I bring this to school? Yes. As long as it meets the device specifications with particular reference to the wireless connectivity specification. Devices must support 5Ghz dual band wireless, 802.11a/b/g/n or 802.11ac. Ensure it supports both 'a' and 'n' frequencies.

Will my new device meet the requirements of the local High Schools BYOD requirements?

If this is of concern, before purchasing a new device please contact your High School of choice to confirm their minimum requirements. At this point in time the NSW Department of Education specifications which Barnier Public School is following meet these requirements for our local High Schools and therefore any device meeting these specifications will be acceptable. All students attending a NSW Department of Education High School will continue to have access to cloud based storage through Google Applications and Microsoft 365.

Why BYOD?

- Students will have daily access to a range of educational Applications used at school and at home;
- Any work done on the device will be available for students to access in the home setting and allow them to share their learning with parents/carers;
- Increased engagement through tasks that are individualised and require students to think creatively, problem solve, collaborate and demonstrate their learning in unique and individual ways;
- Students will begin to learn how to authentically integrate the use of technology into their daily work and to utilise it so as to maximise the greatest educational benefit;
- Students will not have to share a device with other students, allowing them to work at their own pace;
- Students will learn how to value and responsibly care for their own device and equipment.

I am concerned about the device being damaged or lost on the way to and from school. Will the school keep devices secure at school outside of normal operating hours? Arrangements can be made for students who wish to keep their device at school overnight. They will be locked in classrooms, however, the school will accept no responsibility of the device if broken or stolen. For most students, devices will be sent home each day to be charged.

Do you have a preferred device? Yes. Windows based devices with Windows 10 or 11 with Chrome browser installed are suitable devices able to access our BPS Digital Curriculum. Chromebooks will have the Chrome management system installed, free of charge, which will add extra security and control while using the device at school. *Please note:* Barnier Public School does not take any responsibility to remedy any device that does not meet the minimum specifications required to connect to our school network. You may be required to purchase additional hardware such as a USB WIFI adapter.

Do we have to purchase one of the recommended devices? **No.** Providing that your selected device meets the specification checklist found within the Barnier Public School BYOD Policy you are welcome to purchase any device of your choice from any vendor.

Where can I purchase a device? Barnier Public School has partnered with 'Learning with Technologies' to organise discounted prices on a range of specific devices. This company also offers a range of warranty options and interest free finance for approved applicants. Utilising this company to purchase a device is only one option and we encourage parents and carers to carefully read all terms and conditions of any company in which devices are purchased from. To ensure devices meet our specifications present the "BPS BYOD specification sheet" when visiting other retailers. **Refurbished devices are also available for purchase from certain online retailers at a significantly discounted price.** More information about purchasing devices through 'Learning with Technologies' can be accessed via the link:
<https://barnierps.orderportal.com.au/>

Do you recommend extended warranty options at time of purchase? Purchasing extended warranty and/or replacement plans are solely the responsibility of the parent/student. As students will be expected to bring a device to school each day, this may become a worthwhile expense to protect your investment. BPS will not accept any liability for damage or for the cost of repairs for any device brought to school. If you are choosing to Flexirent a computing device, purchasing additional warranty/replacement plans may also be advisable, where not included.

Will we be expected to purchase software at additional expense? Chromebook devices do not require additional software (such as Office) as students will have access to Google Apps for Education which includes an online Office suite. Depending on the device you purchase, some software may be included as part of the purchase price. We do not intend to make specific software recommendations. We can provide advice on a variety of different options for software applications. **Please note: Windows 10 and Windows 11 operating systems will require the latest commercial antivirus software to be installed prior to access to our network environment.**

Will my device be secure at school? The school will make every attempt to keep devices secure, however, security of the device is the responsibility of the student. Devices will be locked in classrooms during the day and will not be allowed in the playground during recess and lunch breaks.

How do students access the Internet? **Internet access on the device will be filtered at school by the NSW Department of Education.** Students will be prohibited from connecting to other networks while at school.

Will my device be covered by insurance? Insurance remains the responsibility of parents/caregivers & students. Insurance will not be provided by the School and it is advisable to consider adding this device to an existing home and contents insurance policy.