



ENGADINE WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) in Stage 2 - Initial Communication

Dear parents/carers,

Engadine West Public School has run a successful BYOD initiative for the past four years, providing diverse learning opportunities for students. Knowledge of safe use of technology and ethics are becoming increasingly necessary. BYOD empowers independent learning, allows for greater differentiation and a more personalised learning approach for every student.

We maintain high expectations of our Stage 2 students regarding their use and care of devices. Safely taking a device to and from school encourages their growing independence and need for increased responsibility in a safe and supportive learning environment.

Students are encouraged to bring a device (details below). Should you be unable to provide a device, there are some devices available for use at school only.

BYOD Requirements - (iPad preferred)

- Preferred Screen size = 9.5 to 11 inches (regular iPad/ tablet or Chromebook).
Minimum Screen Size = 7.9 inches (e.g. iPad mini).
No mobile phones.
Maximum Screen size= 12 inches.
- Must have a 3.5mm head phone jack (or permanent adapter attached)
- Latest system software must be installed.
- Minimum battery life of 6-8 hours (in operation).
- School supported OS Wi-Fi connect instructions are iPad, Chromebook, laptop (PC and Mac) and Android.

Before the BYOD program starts in 2022, a comprehensive form will come home including suggested Apps, The School Digital Devices and Online Services Procedures and the parent / student user agreement.

Kind regards

Stage 2 teachers

Sue Roach
Principal

The signature is handwritten in black ink and appears to read 'Sue Roach'. Below the signature, the name 'Sue Roach' is printed in a standard black font, followed by the title 'Principal' in a slightly smaller font.

BYOD Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if my child's device is lost or stolen?

Any damage or loss to a device that a student brings to school will be the student's responsibility. The school will not accept responsibility for any loss or damage. Families may choose to consider purchasing insurance and/or extended warranty for the device.

Can the device be charged at school?

Most learning spaces do not have the capacity to charge devices. Students should make sure their devices are fully charged every day. It is recommended that devices should last over six hours without being charged.

Will there be a place at school for devices to be stored when they are not being used?

Devices will be stored in the classroom during school hours. Lockable storage inside classrooms is provided.

Will there be an internet filter applied when the device is used at school?

While at school, students will be restricted by the Department of Education filtered internet service. All social media sites and inappropriate sites are blocked while students are at school. It is worth noting that no filter system is perfect given the dynamic nature of the internet, so we work with our students on keeping safe online. In the unlikely event inappropriate content is accessed at school, students are advised to inform the teacher. URLs of inappropriate content are passed on to the Department IT service for action. Our BYOD program provides an opportunity to explicitly teach students safe and ethical online practices. There are many websites that promote and support the safe and appropriate use of the internet for children of all ages. Please look at the following sites and talk with your children about what they are also learning at school.

<https://esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent> www.staysmartonline.gov.au

Will I be able to put on my own apps or programs onto my device?

Yes. Parents and students are allowed to install their own apps and programs on their devices. These are at the discretion of parents and students. Make sure the device has the required/school requested programs and apps installed.

Do students still have to bring books and pens to school?

Yes. A device is another tool for learning just like all other equipment. Students will still be required to bring exercise books and writing materials in addition to their device.

Do students have to bring their devices every day to school?

Yes. The device is part of a student's equipment set for learning. Students will be expected to bring their device fully charged to school every day.

What if my child does not have a device to bring to school?

There are some school devices available for student use. Students must take the time to carefully log in and out of these devices for every learning activity and are not permitted to take them home. These devices are shared by the seven classes across Stage 3 and are not always available for every lesson.

Should I be concerned about overuse of technology?

All activities, no matter how educational or healthy, can lead to unhealthy outcomes when engaged excessively. Excess of food can lead to obesity, exercise to exhaustion or injury, reading to eye strain. Technology is no exception. In all activities, therefore, moderation in use is important. We do not require the students to use their devices all the time. They are an important tool for learning, however, it is our expectation that students engage in a healthy balance of school activities.