

MANDATORY BYOD ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

What you need to know

- At Mount Annan Christian College, we recognise that the use of technology in our society has grown tremendously and for most young people it is a vital connection to the world around them.
- Personal devices can enhance and enrich learning opportunities both at home and at school. While we believe there is no substitute for sound teaching and learning practices, we also recognise the potential value of technology in shaping our students' educational experiences and the new avenues it can offer for learning.

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Vision Statement

To provide a Christ-centred learning environment that empowers each individual to enjoy a life of purpose.

Purpose

As we prepare students for life in the 21st century we must equip them with the skills to utilise technology responsibly and empower them for lifelong learning. To do this effectively, we are introducing a Mandatory 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) Policy for students in Years 3 to 12.

This policy is about more than just enabling students to have a device and connection to the College wireless network. We believe that placing the technology of choice into the hands of our students:

- provides opportunity for individualised learning,
- increases independence, creativity, innovation and
- promotes self-initiated learning within and beyond the classroom.

This policy allows students to use the device with which they are most comfortable and with which learning will be most effective. Recognising the importance of choice, we are not recommending specific brands and models of devices. Instead, we are specifying the minimum requirements to which each device should conform.

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Students, their parents, or guardians must read, understand, and abide by the BYOD Acceptable Use Policy before students are given permission to connect to the College wireless network.

The BYOD Acceptable Use Policy also applies to students during school excursions, camps, and extra-curricular activities or the like.

Scope

This policy applies to all enrolled students at the College in Years 3 to 12. It is a valuable source of information and reference for staff and families alike.

Policy implementation

Ethos

Personal devices have the capacity to enhance student productivity, extend the range of learning opportunities, such as through Project-Based Learning, and broaden engagement with the digital world when used in the proper context. They can provide a gateway to innovative ways of engaging with course content, increase intellectual stimulation, and build confidence. They can also help accommodate individual learning styles and increase autonomy if used appropriately in the school environment.

The availability and appropriate use of these resources provide opportunities that can help students develop spiritually, academically, socially, and physically. However, their inappropriate use can be detrimental to the teaching/learning process, be anti-social, and even harmful.

Responsibility

The following responsibilities apply in the BYOD program:

- It is the responsibility of students who bring devices to school to abide by the guidelines outlined in this document. Students accept the responsibility for the use of devices at school.
- It is a matter for the College to indicate to students, which devices may or may not be used at specific times and places, and in which ways they may or may not be used. Students should not presume the right to use a particular device in any circumstance.
- Year 11 and Year 12 students, and other students who are undertaking non-face-to-face or independent learning sessions, may use a device for educational purposes and to facilitate study, and must ensure that they are not distracting other students.
- When permission for use is granted within a classroom or during other school activity, it should be understood that use is limited to that particular classroom or event. The use of devices will be subject to teacher discretion at all times.
- Students are responsible for the security of their own devices. We strongly advise that devices may be secured within the lockers provided by the College and it is up to each student to ensure this occurs. Students in Years 3 and 6 will have a dedicated space within their classroom for safekeeping of their device during the school day.
- The College takes no responsibility for damage or theft of a student's device.

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- Students and/or parents must ensure the maintenance or upkeep of any personal device (ensuring anti-virus software is installed and upgraded, keeping it charged, installing updates or upgrades, fixing any software or hardware issues). College licensed software will not be installed unless required and is subject to removal at the end of enrolment.
- Students must bring their device to school fully charged as limited opportunities will be available to charge their device at school.

Acceptable Uses

The following are deemed acceptable uses for BYPD devices:

- The use of a personal laptop during the school day is at the discretion of teachers and staff. Students must use these devices as directed by their teacher.
- The sole purpose of the use of personal devices at school is educational.

The use of a personal device is not to be a distraction in any way to teachers or students. The use of personal devices must not disrupt class in any way.

Students are permitted to use personal devices appropriately and responsibly outside scheduled classroom times (i.e. recess or lunch).

In using their devices students are expected to comply with the standards and act within the ethical framework of this College, where respect for individuals, their good name and dignity is paramount.

In some situations, such as formal Examinations, other specific rules may apply to devices. These will be outlined clearly and must be adhered to fully.

Unacceptable Uses

The following are deemed unacceptable uses for BYPD devices:

- A staff member who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a device may be or has been used inappropriately may inspect any device brought onto the College campus by a student and refer the incident to the Head of School.
- Accessing the wireless network other than through the College network is prohibited. All devices brought to College should use the College wireless network. Students are not to deliberately access inappropriate material, such as websites, games, videos, music etc. If this should happen by accident, the following procedure MUST be followed immediately:
 - i. Minimise the site immediately – without communicating to other students.
 - ii. Inform the nearest teacher (the site will then be blocked).
- Students must not post photographs, personal information or refer in any way to members of the Mount Annan Christian College community (staff, students, and parents – past and present) on the Internet without the permission of the School. This includes personal 'blogs', social media, and networking sites as well as websites. Students must not refer to the school in anyway, nor post images of themselves or others in school uniform on the Internet unless on a school-sanctioned website or with the permission of the College.

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- Using devices to bully and threaten other students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In some cases, it can constitute criminal behaviour. Devices and the use of the wireless network must not be used to harass, sexually harass, or victimise other students or staff. Devices must not be used to violate a person's right to privacy or to view or transmit sexually explicit material.
- It is forbidden for students to 'gang up' on another student and use their devices to take videos and pictures of acts to denigrate and humiliate that student and then send the pictures to other students or upload it to a website for public viewing. This also includes using devices to photograph or film any student or staff member without their consent.
- Devices are not to be used or taken into change rooms or toilets or used in any situation that may cause embarrassment or discomfort to their fellow students, staff, or visitors to the school.
- Should there be repeated disruptions to lessons caused by devices; the responsible student may face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Head of School.
- Students should use devices for positive purposes: for learning, for legitimate communication, and for relaxation in acceptable ways. Devices must not be used to harass or victimise other students or staff, or to abuse a person's right to privacy (for example, taking, storing, and then using a digital photo/video without a person's permission).
- Students must not use the wireless network to download or stream content such as music, videos, movies, software, games, updates etc. for personal and non-educational use without the permission of the College.
- Students are not permitted to use VPN, Proxies, Network Monitoring Tools, or any software that puts Colleges' network security at risk. If a student has been found to be doing so, they will face disciplinary action.

Theft or damage

Students should mark their devices clearly with their names. Students who bring devices to school should leave them locked away in their locker/bag when they arrive. To reduce the risk of theft during school hours, students who carry devices are advised to keep them well concealed and not 'advertise' they have them.

Devices that are found in the school and whose owner cannot be located should be handed to Student Services. The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen, or damaged devices. The school accepts no responsibility for students who lose or have their devices stolen or damaged while travelling to and from school.

It is strongly advised that students use passwords to ensure that unauthorised access cannot be made on their devices (e.g. by other students, or if stolen). Students must keep their password confidential. Passwords may not be shared.

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Consequences for Misuse/Disruption

One or more may of the following may apply:

- The device is taken away for the Learning Session or the rest of the school day.
- The device is taken away and kept within Student Services until a parent/guardian picks it up.
- The student is refused permission to use personal devices at school.
- Disciplinary action including detention, suspension, or expulsion may be imposed.
- Should the device be used to capture content at school that is inappropriate or harmful to another student (or teacher) and that student then chooses to post this content on the Internet or in any other public arena, the student will be subject to the same discipline as if they had been found with this content on the school premises.

As set out in the previous section, failure to heed the rules set out in this policy document may result in an alleged incident being referred to the police for investigation. In such cases, the parent or guardian would be notified immediately.

General Information

Access to the Mount Annan Christian College wireless network, whether with school-provided or personal devices, is filtered in compliance with the College Mandatory BYOD Acceptable Use Policy. However, access from personal devices is limited to Internet and email use only. Students will not have direct access to any documents that reside on the school network from their personal devices.

Access to the Mount Annan Christian College Wireless Network is a privilege, not a right. Any use of the wireless network entails personal responsibility and compliance with all school rules and the College BYOD Acceptable Use Policy. In using the College network, you willingly grant IT staff permission to conduct any necessary investigations regarding inappropriate Internet use at any time.

Broadly, what device is suitable and what is not suitable?

Preferably, all students must have a laptop device with a dedicated keyboard (not just an 'on-screen' keyboard) running Windows 10 or 11, or any Apple Mac laptop. Devices that are dual laptop/tablet hybrids such as the Microsoft Surface are acceptable, so long as they have a dedicated keyboard and trackpad (which is often built into the case).

The College does not allow the use of devices described as Google Chromebooks, iPads/tablets, or any devices that use the Android Operating System. Please note that Chromebooks run a different Operating System, which certain applications are not compatible with. This will disadvantage your child's learning experience. Student Laptops must be running Windows or MacOS only.

Any device below a certain physical size would be impractical. Some micro-sized PCs with tiny screens and tiny keyboards will not be suitable. We suggest a 13-inch + screen which has a resolution of 1024x768 as a minimum.

We highly recommend that student devices be replaced every three years to ensure that your child will have the best learning experience at the College.

We do not require devices that have their own separate 'cellular' internet connection.

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In the first instance, the College minimum requirements to which each device should conform include:

M: Minimum **R:** Recommended

LAPTOP	WINDOWS	MAC
Storage	M: 256GB Solid State Drive (SSD)	M: 256 GB Solid State Drive (SSD)
Memory (RAM)	M: 8GB R: 16GB	M: 8GB
Operating System	M: Windows 10 R: Windows 10/11	M: Monterey 12.5.1 R: Ventura 13.5
CPU	M: Intel i5 11th gen or higher or M: AMD Ryzen 5 or better	M: M1 Chip or better
Wi-Fi	M: 802.11ac (Wifi 5) R: 802.11ax (Wifi 6/6E)	M: 802.11ac (Wifi 5) R: 802.11ax (Wifi 6/6E)
Battery Life	M: 6 Hours R: 8 Hours	M: 6 Hours R: 8 Hours
Screen Size	M: 13+ inches & 1024 x 768 R: 13+ inches & 1920 x 1080	M: 13+ inches & 1920 x 1080
Required Accessories	Protective sleeve, bag, or satchel Headphones	Protective sleeve, bag, or satchel Headphones

What you need to be able to do:	What you need installed:	Related Links
Create and edit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents • Spreadsheets • Presentations 	Recommended: Microsoft Office 365 Education (Free for Education) or Microsoft Office Home and Business 2021 (Paid)	https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/education/products/office https://www.microsoft.com/en-au/store/cart?country=AU&culture=en-au&rtc=1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audio Files 	Audacity 3.1.3(Win & Mac) or Garage Band (Mac)	https://www.audacityteam.org/download/

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What you need to be able to do:	What you need installed:	Related Links
Submit documents in common formats	Microsoft Office, or Adobe Acrobat Reader (PDF)	M: Monterey 12.5.1 R: Ventura 13.5
Up-to-date Anti-Virus	We recommend installing a reputable antivirus.	M: M1 Chip or better
Browse the Internet	Latest version of Chrome/Safari	google.com/chrome

Care and Maintenance

Personal computers should be kept in a protective sleeve, bag, or satchel, and we will require adequate protection to be purchased for your device. The device and the sleeve/bag should have the student's name on it.

Backup of Data / Information

One important skill '21st Century Learners' need to cultivate is to backup data against accidental loss. Students should back up their important data to external USB devices large capacity thumb drives or external hard disk drives. They may also make use of cloud-based storage such as Dropbox or Google Drive. Students are responsible for safeguarding their data.

What if my child's laptop is out of action for any reason?

Your child's teachers need to be told if their laptop is out of action for any reason, and it is your responsibility to make every effort to minimize the downtime. The college has limited capacity to loan any student a laptop, and even then, it will be limited to use on school premises.

Does the College offer IT support for Student Device Issues?

The college is only able to offer a basic level of support. Any issues that are not resolved with basic troubleshooting are the responsibility of the student to resolve.

Student Electronic Mail (email) @student.macc.nsw.edu.au

The following applies to student electronic email use:

- All student Electronic Mail (email) @student.macc.nsw.edu.au accounts are property of Mount Annan Christian College. The College, at its discretion, may close the accounts at any time it deems necessary.
- The primary purpose of the MACC student email is educational. That is, the accounts are provided for students to communicate effectively internally and externally of the College, to be able to obtain external resources related to schoolwork, and to enable students to collaborate on school activities using Google Classroom.

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- Messages that are sent or received by College email are confidential. Although the College does not make a practice of monitoring electronic mail, the College reserves the right to retrieve the contents of user mailboxes for legitimate reasons, such as to find lost messages, to conduct internal investigations, to comply with investigations of wrongful acts, or to recover from system failure.
- Account usernames and passwords will be provided to parents upon request, so that parents can monitor the account if they wish.
- Communication through the College email system will exhibit common sense and politeness.
- Students are responsible for messages sent from their accounts.
- Students should not share their passwords.
- Messages posted on the College email system are not to cause disruption to the school environment or normal and acceptable school operations. Occasional and reasonable personal use of the College email is permitted, provided that this does not interfere with the performance of the email system or disrupt the operation of the College.
- Students must not identify their telephone numbers or home addresses in any email correspondence.
- Students will report to the Head of Primary or Secondary any unusual or suspicious email activities such as "spam" communications, obscene emails including images, offensive or suspicious communications, or attempts by adults to lure them into dangerous behaviours, etc.
- System administrators may create filters to scan for and eliminate viruses and/or large files that are unrelated to the school operation.
- Use of the College email system is a privilege. Its use will align with the College rules and Student Management System and it will be used for discipline purposes if needed. Improper use of the system will result in disciplinary consequences that may include having access to emails temporarily or permanently revoked.
- When issues of concern arise, the College will deal directly with the student and/or parents/guardians. Illegal activities on the system will be referred to law enforcement authorities for appropriate legal action.
- Student email accounts will be removed from the system after graduation or leaving the school.

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Related policies and procedures

- IT Acceptable Use Policy
- Primary Student Management Policy
- Secondary Student Management Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Mobile Phones Acceptable Use Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Statement of Faith
- This policy needs to be read in conjunction with all other College policies