

Bring your own device programme (BYOD)

From 2017 onwards, we strongly suggest that students in year 11 to year 13 to have access to their own device (BYOD) at Cornerstone Christian School. Year 6-10 students are also encouraged to consider purchasing their own device.

Since some families are not able provide a device for their child, the school is not willing to make BYOD compulsory at present, but will continue to have a number of devices on site, however, this will only allow 1:1 access if many students are bringing their own.

What is Digital Learning or eLearning?

Digital learning or eLearning has become a catchphrase in schools in the last few years. All it means is children (and teachers) using digital hardware and software and cloud (internet based) resources to engage children in meaningful learning opportunities.

The aim is to have children 'Learn, create and share', and become more than just consumers and develop values and attitudes related to good computer usage.

The need for personally owned devices

We have made sure that there are sufficient up to date class computers to ensure ALL children can have access to a computer for learning for some time during the day. However, particularly from year 11 onwards, the need for personal and constant access to a computer and the internet is paramount. Since the school cannot provide this constant access for all students, the best situation is for students to own their device and personalise it for their use both in and out of school.

The reasons for the need for personally owned devices in senior secondary are:

- All classes use digital technology constantly.
- All classes use internet search capabilities regularly.
- Student portfolios are interactive and use cloud based technology.
- Virtually all internal NCEA assessments require some access to a device.
- The Qualifications Authority has signalled that many NCEA external assessments will shift from paper to online format shortly and students will need to be prepared for this change.
- This is an opportunity for Cornerstone to continue to prepare students for university and life ahead in the workforce.

System details

Cornerstone Christian School has a safe wifi system in place that will allow children's devices to have managed access to the world-wide web and cloud computing resources without gaining access to the school server and systems. The main cloud computing platform we will be using is Microsoft 'Office 365'. This platform was implemented in term 4, 2014.

The finer details can change since the IT world moves so rapidly, but as of May 2016: all students bringing a device to school must register this device with the ICT coordinator. The ICT coordinator will assist the student with connecting their device to the wireless network and will also install a small programme called 'AB tutor client' which will allow teachers and admin staff monitoring access on the device during the time that they are connected to the Cornerstone wireless network.

Student's access to the internet will be filtered and monitored, and will require the signing of a Computer and ICT Acceptable Use Agreement.

Some of the digital online learning work being carried out by our children can be viewed via the school website and viewing the class blogs.

What Digital devices can be brought to school?

These are the suggested specifications for devices we would like to see being brought to school and used on the school wifi:

A laptop, netbook or notebook with

- At least an 11" screen. At 15" screen is preferable.
- CPU: Faster is usually better but may also reduce battery life. The Intel Atom processors found in netbooks are fine and allow for a longer battery life. The Intel i3, i5 or i7 processors are faster.
- On-board storage - at least 32Gb in the form of a hard disk drive or flash disk drive.
- On-board memory or RAM – at least 2Gb. 4Gb is preferred
- Battery life 6 hours plus (6 cell battery).
- Wireless network connectivity - at least 802.11n wifi.
- At least: Microsoft Windows 7 operating system. Windows 10 preferred. (Not Windows RT)
- Lightweight enough to be carried around all day in a school backpack. Any device over 1.5kg including the case is most likely too heavy.

Please note that if your student is taking or intending to take the Digital Technology class at secondary school, a higher specified laptop is required.

Where can we purchase devices? At present devices can be purchased from any of the electronics outlets in Palmerston North such as Noel Leemings, and Harvey Norman. Cornerstone Christian School may look at purchasing programmes for school families.

What Digital devices cannot be brought to school?

Any device that has 3G or 4G capability. Basically this means any device (mainly smart phones) that can accept a SIM card and therefore can connect to a computer network other than Cornerstone Christian School's managed wireless network.