



BYOD EQUITY POLICY

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Authorised by:
Principal
Consultation: **School Community**
Approved by School Council: **21/05/25**

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Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Horsham College on 5381 7100, or email horsham.co@education.vic.gov.au

Rationale

The Horsham College Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program, like all BYOD programs in an education setting, inherently imposes a financial cost on students and their families in supplying a device. At the same time, the Horsham College BYOD program can only function if all students have access to appropriate technological resources in all their classes. Horsham College takes seriously the role of public education in ensuring all students have access to the same learning outcomes. The purpose of the BYOD Equity Policy is to establish the framework for the BYOD program to provide this for all students, irrespective of their families' financial means.

References

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy

Objectives

1. To achieve objective (1) of the Horsham College BYOD Policy, being to facilitate and promote the bringing of a computing device to school by all students in Years 7 - 12 for use in their education.
2. To ensure equity in the BYOD program and its implementation.
3. To ensure all students have access to appropriate technological resources in their classes.
4. To provide a framework through which family requests for assistance can be managed consistently.

Actions

(A) Horsham College

Horsham College will:

1. Endeavour to provide personal access to appropriate technology resources to all students operating under the school's Bring Your Own Device program in keeping with the objectives of that policy and with respect to its role as a public education institution.
2. Ensure the BYOD Program's Device Specification is designed so that a range of devices in capability and cost are suitable and meet the Specification.
3. Assess applications for assistance in meeting the requirements of the BYOD program on a case-by-case basis. Due consideration will be given to all the facts of the matter, including:
 - The level of assistance requested.
 - Wellbeing team's assessment of individuals' personal circumstances.
 - The year of the student.
 - The subjects the student undertakes.
 - The technology already available to the student at school and at home.

Horsham College is a Child Safe School

Parents/carers requiring assistance due to financial hardship are encouraged to contact the school administration office.

4. The school will liaise with parents, students and teachers to identify the most appropriate way to ensure students have appropriate access to the equivalent technological resources of their peers.
5. Consider a range of access options to support the student such as (but not limited to):
 - Loan of a laptop or other device for a particular period or class.
 - Loan of a laptop or other device for a particular day.
 - Recurrent daily loan of a laptop or other device.
6. Make a written agreement between the school, student and parent/guardian that specifies the arrangements agreed upon or determined for facilitating access to technological resources.
7. In most circumstances, will not agree to loan a laptop or other device to a student overnight, over a weekend or over a holiday period.
8. Provide a protocol for signing out and signing in a laptop or other device borrowed from the BYOD Support Office and follow up any cases where the loaned device is not returned in accordance with the agreement.

(B) Students and Parents/Guardians:

1. Consider your options for the purchase or lease of equipment that meets the Device Specification. Horsham College will endeavour to make a broad selection of devices in a range of price points that match the Specification.
2. If you believe you are unable to provide a device that meets the specification:
 - Make an application in writing to the Principal or make an appointment to speak with the relevant Assistant Principal and indicate you require assistance in addressing the school's Bring Your Own Device program.
 - You will be asked to make an agreement with the school that confirms the alternative arrangements made for your student's access to technological resources.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- available publicly on school website
- discussed at parent information nights
- hard copy available from school administration upon request

Review Cycle

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Policy Review Schedule