What is BYOD?

Bring Your Own Device or BYOD, is a technological trend in education and in the corporate world which recognises that technology and choices about technology are very much personal.

BYOD acknowledges technology in education means more than meeting specific curriculum requirements. It is designed to give students and families freedom to make technology choices that suit your particular circumstances.

Our BYOD program replaces the federally funded Digital Education Revolution (DER) program which has now ended.

Why Move Towards a BYOD Environment?

Increasingly students need to take ownership of their learning. The learning context beyond school will require that young people will have the capacity to manage their own learning, often in a digital environment. Access to digital resources including learning paths via Schoology provide the opportunity for students to personalise their learning and access resources suitable to their stage of progress. Through the DER process, Pacific has found that where students owned their devices there was:

- A much faster connection to our wireless network, which meant significantly greater time spent on task during class time;

- Greater upskilling of students in terms of managing their device which will need to occur beyond the school context; and

- Less damage to devices.

Pacific has been developing the capacity of our staff to cater for the needs of different learners utilising digital resources and to develop a strong sense of ownership of learning by our students. A greater depth of understanding is developed through the stronger engagement that occurs when students have ownership of their learning and can access learning from a variety of places in a variety of ways. Pacific has taken note of the research and experience of schools working in the BYOD environment in determining the way forward and has been cognisant of minimising the financial implications of this decision. Parents can access a literature review compiled by the New South Wales Education Department via the following link.

https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/technology/computers/mobiledevice/BYOD_2013_Literature_Review.pdf

The following material has been adapted from Sydney Boys High School BYOD parent information page and St Mary Star of the Sea College BYOD Equity Policy.

How does it work?

In 2016, students in Year 10 will be expected to bring their own computing device to school every day. We are making recommendations as to the model of device you may choose to bring. Students can bring something of their own choosing that meets our *Device Specification*. Our recommendations are based on service agreements that we have in place with HP, Acer and Apple.

There is also some software that you must have on the device. In most cases there are free options for software.

Web-based instructions to assist families will be available from the College website. The College IT staff are also available to answer questions and provide assistance. However, the College does not manage, support, own or warrant the device - it's your device.

What type of device can we bring?

A range of devices in a range of price categories meet the *Device Specification*. You should carefully consider all your options for purchase and lease/rent-to-buy. Consider also that a good quality device should comfortably last three years.

Some of the *Device Specification* requirements are quite particular. If you choose one of our recommended devices, you won't have to worry about whether it ticks all the requirements. Additionally, it's possible you already own or use a device which meets the Device Specification, in which case, just bring that.

Can other students access the program?

Absolutely. Students in Years 9 -12 are also encouraged to participate.

I'm concerned about the costs

The purchase of a device is a major decision and a significant expense. A good quality device should last from Year 10 to Year 12 and, over three years, the expense is considerably less. In addition, we have made arrangements with some suppliers for access to interest-free and rental purchasing schemes. The two suppliers we are liaising with are School Locker and Datacom. These companies are currently setting up the web portals for Pacific and we expect that they will be operational from late October. We have also developed a *BYOD Equity Policy* which outlines a number of strategies to assist with access to devices.

I'm concerned about device security

The school does not own the device, support the device or warrant the device. Experience from the previous Commonwealth-funded DER scheme indicates that students who took good care of their device and considered themselves the device's owner rarely had device security issues.

If you are concerned the device is going to be broken, lost or stolen, you may wish to consider specific accidental damage insurance for the device. You can specifically list the item on your home contents insurance, or you can purchase an Accidental Damage Protection plan for your device. Accidental Damage Protection is available as an option for all our recommended devices.

Internet access on the device will be filtered at school and students will be prohibited from connecting to other networks while at school. Students must also install security software as outlined in the *Device Specification*.

Device Specification for Senior School

Minimum PC or Mac Laptop Specifications

Subject	Information Technology	Graphics	Mathematics	Other Subjects
RAM	16Gb	8Gb (16Gb recommended)	8Gb	4Gb
CPU	Intel i7	Intel i5 (i7 recommended)	Intel i3(i5 recommended)	Intel i3(i5 recommended)
HDD	256 Gb SSD	256 Gb SSD	128 Gb	128 Gb
Graphics Card	1Gb	1Gb	Not required	Not required

Minimum Tablet PC or Microsoft Surface Pro 4 Specifications

Subject	Information Technology	Graphics	Mathematics	Other Subjects
RAM	Not Suitable	8Gb (16Gb recommended)	8Gb	4Gb
CPU	Not Suitable	Intel i5 (i7 recommended)	Intel i5	Intel i3
HDD	Not Suitable	128 Gb SSD	128 Gb	128 Gb
Graphics Card	Not Suitable	Intel 5000 Graphics	Not required	Not required

Minimum screen size of 12" is recommended across all devices.

Security software – there are a range of products available from a variety of software suppliers. Many offer multi-device packages at discounted prices. At a minimum, we require the free *Windows Defender* (Windows) or *Avira* (Windows & Mac) software programs be installed all devices. We also recommend installation of an anti-malware program such as *Malwarebytes* which is available as a free download for Windows and Mac.

BYOD Equity Policy

Rationale

Pacific Lutheran College's 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 Pacific Lutheran College BYOD program can only function if all students have access to appropriate technological resources in all their classes. Pacific Lutheran College takes seriously the role of 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.

Objectives

- To ensure equity in the BYOD program and its implementation.
- To ensure all students have access to appropriate technological resources in their classes.
- To provide a framework through which family requests for assistance can be managed consistently.

Actions

The College will:

1. Endeavour to provide personal access to appropriate technology resources to all students operating under the College's BYOD program in keeping with the objectives of that policy and with respect to its role as an 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.
   - The student's current year level
   - The subjects the student undertakes.
   - The technology already available to the student at school and at home.

4. Consult with the parent/caregiver in making determinations as to what form any assistance will take.

5. Consider a range of alternatives for providing device access for students, including:

   - 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.