



PAPAKAIO SCHOOL



BYOD - Frequently Asked Questions.

As new technologies continue to change the world in which we live, they also provide many new and positive educational benefits for classroom instruction. Children learn differently and have different expectations about how they find out about and participate in their world.

Many of our children have tablets, laptops, ipads, Ipod touches, digital cameras, cell phones that sit idle during the week, and could be used to help access information and learning opportunities as well as to create information.

To recognise this change, students at Papakaio School may soon bring their own technology to school.

What does BYOD stand for? BYOD = Bring Your Own Device

What Devices Are Suitable? – Basically any technology that can access the Net, record sounds or pictures, save information or communicate have their use in a modern classroom. For a recommendation for children in senior rooms something with a keyboard such as a Netbook or Laptop is helpful, for the junior students a tablet is more age appropriate.

Is every class involved with this? – At the initial stage it will be trialled with the senior two rooms and once systems are trialled and tested we will gradually introduce it to room 3.

At this stage any introduction of BYOD for children in Rooms 1 and 2 is on hold until we can see the benefits will out-weigh the challenges.

Should I rush out and buy a device? – Initially no. I strongly recommend you talk to the child's teacher to discuss this and take your time to ensure any purchase you make will be worthwhile. Technology changes very quickly and it would pay to seek information from educational people as well as sales people. Initially, get children to use things they already have access to such as digital cameras, ipad touches etc.

How Can I Be Assured the Device Will Be Safe? Sadly you can't. While we expect these devices to be as safe at school as they will be at home, as at home, mishaps sometimes happen. The onus is on the children, under the supervision of teachers, to take care of their devices. They will need to be insured under your personal insurance. The school will provide lockable storage for each individual device. Your child will need to supply a lock and two keys. One key they wear and the other will be kept in the office for safe-keeping.

Will My Child Be Safe From Inappropriate Material and Cyber Bullying? The school has a filter service provided by "Watchdog" that filters searches and websites to ensure they are appropriate. While this will not be full-proof, it is much more protection than the average household provides. We will also provide teaching about cyber citizenship and appropriate use. We will also follow Netsafe guidelines on acceptable use and ways to minimise these occurrences. We take any breaches seriously.

What if we can't afford one; will our child be disadvantaged? The Board of Trustees resolved to ensure that no children will be educationally disadvantaged due to economic reasons and that it will continue to provide a base level of access to technology that will meet student's access needs. Provision of technology within the school will continue to be a priority in each year's budget, but for every child that brings their own device, it frees up a school one to be used elsewhere.

Why doesn't the school just fundraise for them? – The problem is that the cost of maintaining the devices and the on-going technical support along with the depreciation makes it prohibitive. Many children have devices they are happy to bring and would like to use as a part of their learning.

Who is responsible if the device is lost or broken? – Responsibility rests with the individual owner. While the school will supply a safe storage place and supervise the devices use, if they are broken, stolen or have technical issues, it is up to the family to carry that risk. We advise that families check the fine-print on their insurance policies.

What happens if my child misuses their device or breaks the Use Agreement? BYOD is a privilege and the teacher along with the principal will consider an appropriate consequence. This will range from a warning through to loss of being able to bring the device to school. Parents will be informed of any breaches. The school has the right to examine any device that is suspected of causing problems or being used inappropriately.

Does my child have the right to using their cell phone while at school? Yes but only through the school network/gateway. Children will generally not be allowed to use the phone function or their provider's data without express permission. This ensures data is filtered and communication is monitored. This also applies to other devices with a 3G capability. These will need to be stored securely when not being used for specific tasks and not in general circulation in undirected or supervised situations.

Can my child play with their device at playtimes/lunchtimes? We encourage physical activity and play that develops social skills. Using devices can be a way for children to opt out from these, therefore the use of the devices will be restricted to teacher directed activities and are not to be used at these times without express permission.

Can my child print out from their devices? Printing *directly* from personal laptops/devices will not be possible at school. Children will, however, be able to save their data to Google Apps or a storage device and transfer it from a school computer where it can be printed.

Does my child have to bring their technology? No, it is not compulsory, but it would be helpful if they could.

When does BYOD start? – The Ultra-Fast Broadband is due to be up and working at the end of the month. (August 2013)

The policies will be made available for feedback, and once ratified by the Board, children will be able to bring their own devices, once their family have signed the agreement and the children show an understanding of their responsibilities under them. (August 2013)

Once BYOD Agreement is signed by individual families they may bring devices to school. (September 2013)

It must be remembered that we are a leading school in this area and that we are breaking new ground and there are likely to be things we will learn along the way.

Teachers will need time to change the way they plan their lessons and include digital opportunities.

Once we get started we will hold a parent meeting to explain what's happening and share our recommendations on the sorts of devices you may wish to purchase. We may even try putting together a bulk buying plan a small range of devices using our combined buying power.

Finally I recommend you contact the school directly if you have any questions or concerns.