



# Moss Vale High School

Respectful, Safe and Responsible Learners

## Moss Vale High School BYOD Policy

### What is BYOD?

"Bring your own device (BYOD) refers to technology models where students bring a personally owned device to school for the purpose of learning. A personally owned device is any technology device brought into the school and owned by a student (or the student's family), staff or guests" (Alberta Education, 2012).

Put simply, BYOD is a solution where students quite literally bring their own device to school in order to access the internet by the DoE Wi-Fi. **Mobile phones are not considered an acceptable device.**

### Moss Vale High School BYOD Policy

In 2021, and beyond, all students in Years 7 to 12 are asked to bring their own digital learning device (laptop or a 2 in 1 device) to school every day. Students are free to bring any device that meets our Device Specifications.

A BYOD contact will be available to answer questions and to give assistance, but the school does not manage, support, own or warrant the device - it's your choice and your device. Our Technical Support Officer will be able to assist with questions about device specifications to ensure it can be connected to the DoE Wi-Fi network.

### What type of device can we bring?

Various devices in price categories will meet the Device Specification. It can be a laptop or a 2 in 1 device. You should carefully consider all your options for purchase or lease/rent-to-buy.

### What things should you look for in a device for learning?

Our recommended specifications are as follows.

The device should be:

- Laptop or a 2-in-1 device.
- (For Windows Devices - minimums) Windows, 4GB RAM, 1Ghz processor, 32GB of free hard drive space.
- (For Mac Devices - minimums) OS X 10.9\* 4GB RAM, 1Ghz processor, 32GB of free hard drive space.
- iPad or Android Tablets with external keyboard, or a Chromebook. Please note, that there are some concerns about the long-term functionality of these devices and ease of network connectivity.
- Battery Life of 6+ hours.
- Light weight, under 1.5 kg
- 12" or larger screen.
- Dual Band Wi-Fi with a/g/b/n.
- Pre-loaded with the Microsoft Suite (students have free access to Microsoft 365 from the Student Portal)
- Ability to connect earphones/head phones.

For further assistance, please contact Chris Osiadacz, Technology Support Officer.

### **Where can you buy the correct device?**

Parents are welcome to purchase devices anywhere. Parents should purchase a device that meets the school requirements and also suits their child's needs and family circumstances.

Local retailers are aware of NSW DoE school requirements and can assist you in choosing an appropriate device for your child.

### **About device security**

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

You are advised to consider insuring the device against loss or damage, particularly if it is of significant value since the school and the Department of Education and Communities does not accept liability for loss or damage to student devices. (*NSW DOE Legal Issues Bulletin 8*) You might also consider using a device locator service.

Internet access on the device will be filtered through the DOE authentication portal while students are at school and they will be prohibited from connecting to other networks while at school.

### **I'm concerned about the costs**

The purchase of a device is a major decision and a significant expense. A quality device should last from Year 7 to Year 12 so viewed over six years the expense is significantly less.

The school has incorporated laptops and tablets into most areas of teaching and learning. This investment in digital technology is assisting in ensuring optimum learning outcomes for all students.

We are committed to delivery of the same learning outcomes for all our students whatever their family's financial circumstances. We have developed an **Equity Policy** to operate alongside our BYOD Policy. The Equity Policy outlines a number of strategies the school may take, in consultation with you, to support access to information and communication technologies (ICT).

### **BYOD Equity Policy**

The MVHS BYOD Program can only function effectively if all students have access to a device that meets the Device Specification. All BYOD programs involve a cost to users.

To ensure access and equity for all students in years that are part of the BYOD program the school has established procedures for families to apply for assistance in obtaining access to a device that meets the Device Specification.

If you believe you are unable to provide a device that meets the specification you may make an application in writing to the Principal, or make an appointment to speak with the Principal, so that your particular case can be outlined.

You will be asked to make an agreement with the school that confirms the alternative arrangements made for your child's access to a device.

## Mobile and Electronic Device Agreement

- Students will use their digital devices in a way that reflects the core values being taught at Moss Vale High School, including the values of respect, responsibility and safety.
- Permitted digital devices are for learning only and must only be accessed in learning areas where the DoE wireless network can be accessed. **Therefore, digital devices are not allowed in the playground where students are encouraged to engage in physical activity and/or social interaction with their peers. During breaks, students can access permitted digital devices in the library.**
- Digital devices MUST be connected to the Department of Education's wireless network.

### Improper use of digital devices:

- Inappropriate use of digital devices may include students using them to bully, intimidate or otherwise harass other people through any voice call, text message, photographic, video or other data transfer system available on the device. It is illegal for students to have pornographic material on their devices while on school grounds or at school events.
- Students must not use digital devices to disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the operation of the school.
- Students are not to use devices to record images, video or sound. Filming, photographing or recording without permission is an offence.

### Improper use of digital devices may incur:

- PBR, detention or other appropriate disciplinary measure as determined by the school's disciplinary policy.
- Confiscation of the device until such time as their parent or caregiver is able to attend school to collect the device. There is to be no argument when requested to hand in the device to a staff member. Such activities and behaviour may incur disciplinary action including suspension.
- Withdrawing the student's privilege of having a device at school.

## Confiscating a student's digital device

Where school staff have reasonable grounds to suspect that a student has inappropriate material on his or her device, they may confiscate the device for the purpose of confirming the existence of the material. It is appropriate to confiscate devices from students when:

- A student has a mobile phone out or smartwatch on during school hours as already defined within the policy.
- A student is seated outside the Deputy Principal's office for any breach of the school's behaviour code.
- It is necessary to examine the device when there are reasonable grounds to suspect inappropriate material may be on the device. Senior Executive will be involved in such incidents.
- Other disciplinary action, in cases where students have bullied, threatened or harassed other students or staff via a device or where the device has been used to take photographs or display inappropriate material.
- Material that falls within the meaning of sexting is found on the device.
- The device has been used to record fights or other criminal activity involving students.

