

BYOD Scheme – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Minimum Device Specification – Windows Laptop

To ensure a smooth and effective learning experience, all pupils are required to bring a Windows device that meets at least the following minimum specifications:

Core Requirements:

- **Operating System:** Windows 11 (Windows 10 accepted, but must be upgradable)
- **Processor:** Intel i5 (11th generation or above) or AMD Ryzen 5 (5000 series or above)
- **Memory (RAM):** 8GB minimum (16GB recommended for longevity)
- **Storage:** 256GB SSD minimum (512GB SSD recommended)
- **Screen Size:** 12–15 inches
- **Battery Life:** Minimum of 6 hours of active use
- **Wireless Connectivity:** Wi-Fi 6 capable

Additional Requirements:

- **Camera & Microphone:** Integrated for online lessons and video conferencing
- **Keyboard:** Built-in or detachable (not Bluetooth-only)
- **Protective Case:** Strongly recommended

Optional but Recommended Features:

- **Touchscreen capability**
- **Electronic stylus/pen support** for digital note-taking and creative tasks
- **Lightweight design (<1.5kg)** for easy portability
- **Wireless Mouse** for those who prefer this to the trackpad
- **Wired/Wireless Headphones** for when lessons require watching media

Frequently Asked Questions – BYOD Initiative

1. Why is the school introducing laptops for pupils?

Laptops allow pupils to access digital resources, collaborate more effectively, and develop essential 21st-century skills. This also enhances teaching through Microsoft Classroom Pages, providing a seamless link between school and home learning.

2. What type of device should my child bring?

All pupils are required to bring a **Windows laptop** that meets the minimum specifications outlined in the attached sheet. Touchscreen and pen-enabled devices are optional but recommended for added flexibility.

3. Does the school provide insurance for the devices?

No. Parents are responsible for arranging insurance coverage for their child's laptop. Many home insurance policies offer this option, or specialist device insurance can be purchased. We strongly advise families to ensure devices are covered for accidental damage and theft.

4. What happens if my child forgets their laptop?

If a pupil forgets their device, they may be loaned a temporary school device (subject to availability). However, repeated instances will be followed up with parents, as it is essential that pupils come prepared for lessons.

5. How will devices be kept secure during the school day?

Pupils are responsible for their own devices. Devices should always be stored in a protective case when not in use. Classrooms and school buildings are secure, but pupils should never leave their laptops unattended in public areas. Lockers are available for storage during break and lunchtime.

6. How will the school ensure devices are used safely in lessons?

All pupil laptops will have **classroom.cloud** installed. This allows teachers to monitor usage during lessons, ensuring laptops are being used appropriately for learning.

7. Will pupils receive training on how to use their laptops effectively?

Yes. Pupils will receive structured training sessions on how to use their devices for learning. Parents will also be invited to briefing sessions to see how laptops can be used both in school and at home.

8. What if my child's device stops working during the school day?

If a laptop develops a fault, pupils should inform their teacher immediately. The school will provide support where possible, though long-term repairs remain the responsibility of parents.

9. Do pupils need to bring their chargers?

No, laptops should be fully charged before arriving at school each day. Bringing chargers is discouraged for safety reasons, unless a device cannot hold charge for the full day (in which case arrangements will be made).

10. Will my child still use exercise books and write by hand?

Yes. Laptops are a tool to support learning, not replace traditional methods. Pupils will continue to use books, pens, and other resources alongside their devices.

11. Will the school provide technical support for devices?

The school will assist with basic troubleshooting (e.g., connectivity issues or installing school software). However, families remain responsible for maintaining, updating and repairing their child's device.

12. Can my child use a MacBook, Chromebook, or tablet instead of a Windows device?

No. For consistency and compatibility with the school's systems (including Microsoft Teams Classroom Pages and classroom.cloud), only Windows devices meeting the minimum specification are permitted.

13. How will internet safety be managed?

When connected to the school network, all online activity is filtered and monitored in line with our safeguarding policy. Parents are encouraged to install appropriate parental controls for use outside of school.

14. Will my child be able to install personal apps and games?

Devices are for learning purposes. classroom.cloud allows staff to monitor usage in lessons and restrict inappropriate activity. Parents are encouraged to monitor devices at home to maintain a healthy balance. classroom.cloud **MUST NOT** be removed from the child's device all the time they are a pupil at Capital School. When the pupil leaves the school, the management software will be removed from their device

15. Will having a laptop increase screen time too much?

Not necessarily. Teachers will plan lessons where laptops are used as a tool alongside discussion, books, and hands-on activities. Devices will not replace all traditional learning methods.

16. Will my child's work still be marked and assessed in the same way?

Yes. Teachers will continue to mark and assess using a variety of methods. The introduction of laptops provides additional ways to give feedback and track progress.

17. How will the use of laptops affect exams?

Exams will continue to be taken in line with examination board requirements (primarily written). Laptops are designed to support learning and preparation, not to replace official examination methods. Exam boards are gradually moving towards electronic exams. By building digital skills now, your child will be well prepared when this becomes the standard.

18. Will there be charging stations available in school?

Limited charging points are available for emergencies, but pupils are expected to bring devices fully charged each day.

19. How will laptops be used in homework and independent study?

Teachers may set tasks that require online research, Microsoft Teams Classroom Pages access, or digital submissions. Pupils will also be encouraged to use their laptops for organisation, revision, and collaboration at home.

20. Can my child customise their laptop (stickers, backgrounds, etc.)?

Devices must remain professional and appropriate for a school setting. Customisation should not interfere with identification labels, software, or school monitoring tools. We strongly recommend you label your child's device with a tamper-proof label, including their full name and the school's name.

21. What happens if a device is lost or stolen?

The school cannot accept responsibility for lost or stolen devices. We strongly recommend insurance and encourage pupils to keep devices secure in their bags or lockers when not in use.

22. Will there be opportunities for parents to learn about digital safety and supporting learning at home?

Yes. Parent workshops will be offered to provide guidance on digital safety, learning platforms, and how to best support children with their devices.

23. Will the school check devices for compliance?

Yes. At the start of our implementation, IT staff may check devices to ensure they meet minimum specifications, have required software installed, and comply with safeguarding requirements. When the pupil leaves the school, the management software will be removed from the device.

24. Can pupils use their devices outside of lessons (e.g., at breaktimes)?

Devices are intended for learning. They may be used during independent study periods (Year 12), or when supervised by a member of staff. Otherwise, pupils **will not** be permitted to use their device at breaktimes. It is important that children take time away from screens during the day to prevent eye strain and headaches.

25. Will my child need to back up their work?

Yes. Pupils are expected to regularly back up their work. We recommend that pupils save all work to their Microsoft OneDrive (provided by the school) to ensure files are not lost if a device fails.