



BYODD Guide



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
STRATHFIELD

Technology is rapidly transforming society and creating new pressures for young people. St Patrick's aims to equip students with the digital technology skills outlined in the Australian Curriculum so they can use technology responsibly and effectively. The College provides a learning environment that builds core literacy and numeracy while developing strong digital competence, supported by platforms such as Microsoft Office 365 and Canvas. Teachers determine when and how devices are used so that technology enhances learning without replacing essential practices like handwriting.

Students are expected to use their devices responsibly and maintain a healthy balance between screen time and personal interaction, with parents encouraged to reinforce these habits at home. This BYODD (Bring Your Own Designated Device) guide supports families in choosing devices that meet College standards, while our overall approach highlights strong relationships, high academic expectations and the development of confident, capable learners who use technology well.

Technology Selection

St Patrick's College is a Windows-only school. All new students are required to use a Windows device, and current students must also choose a Windows device when replacing their existing device.

The table below is provided to assist parents when purchasing a new BYODD device. A wide range of Windows laptops are available, with differences in performance, features, and price. For example, a higher-specification device (e.g. Intel i7) will offer greater performance than an entry-level model (e.g. Ryzen 5), and laptops are generally more suitable for school use than tablets.

Parents are not expected to purchase the most powerful or expensive option. When selecting a device, please consider your son's year group, the size and weight of the laptop, and battery life. Parents should feel confident in their decision and not feel influenced by peer preferences. The College supports family choice, provided the device meets the guidelines below.

Note: While many new laptops include eSIM or mobile data capability, the College does not recommend purchasing devices with cellular connectivity. The use of mobile data or personal hotspotting during school hours is not permitted.

	Years 5 - 6	Years 7 - 10	Years 11 - 12
Windows 11 laptop Microsoft Surface device Other Windows laptop brands (e.g. HP, Dell, Lenovo)	Approved	Approved	Approved [#]
Chromebook devices Linux based operating system Android based devices iPad or iOS-based devices (Apple) MacBook laptops running macOS (Apple)	NOT permitted	NOT permitted	NOT permitted
[#] If your son has chosen subjects in Years 11 and 12 where specialist software is used (e.g. Photoshop or CAD software), you may wish to consider a device with additional capabilities; the College maintains specialist computing facilities for these subject areas			

Device Recommendations

We recommend purchasing your son's device through the SPC (St Patrick's College) BYODD portal, hosted by HP.

All laptops on the portal have been thoroughly vetted by our IT department to ensure they meet College curriculum requirements.

The portal also offers discounted pricing and a range of specifications to suit different budgets and learning needs.

SPC BYODD Portal

The SPC BYODD portal can be found at the following link:

Website: [SPCBYODD](#)

School Code: SPCBYODD

Recommended Device Specifications

Years 5 - 8

Any Touch or Non-Touch model with a Ryzen 5 or Intel i5 processor and 16GB RAM.

Years 9 - 10

Any Touch or Non-Touch model with an Intel i5 processor and 16GB RAM.

Years 11 - 12

Any Touch or Non-Touch model with an Intel i7 processor and 16GB RAM.

Device Specifications

The minimum specifications outlined below have been compiled to ensure the best learning experience for your son.

Minimum Requirements – Hardware	
Form Factor	Laptop or hybrid. (<u>Must have keyboard</u>)
Screen Size	9.7” screen size or larger
Wireless Compatibility	5GHz 802.11n (see further explanation)
Battery	At least 6 hours of sustained battery usage
Memory	8GB or above
Processor	AMD Ryzen 5 or Intel i5 is minimum requirement
HDD	128GB minimum
Minimum Requirements – Software	
Operating System	Microsoft Windows 11 minimum (Pro version preferred)
Web Browser	Your device must be able to run one of the following: Microsoft Edge Mozilla Firefox Google Chrome
Security	Appropriate Virus Scanner Sophos Home <i>Free for Windows</i>
Software	Microsoft Office 365 <i>Signing in with a college email address provides free Office 365 applications and storage. Do not purchase this license.</i> There are specialty labs with other software in the college.
Other Recommendations or Considerations	
Physical Device Protection	Silicon, leather or hard plastic case Screen protector
Warranty	3 years
Insurance	Insurance coverage for accidental breakage, theft, etc.
Wireless Compatibility: <i>The compatibility of your son’s portable learning device with the College’s wireless network is of critical importance. The College wireless network will only connect devices with 5GHz support and those supporting WPA2 Enterprise security. Devices advertised or marked as “802.11bgn” only, will NOT likely support 5 GHz and devices marked with “802.11agn” or “802.11abgn” should be selected instead. If you are unsure about this when purchasing a device, please ask your sales assistant to direct you to a device with these capabilities.</i>	

FAQ's

Do I have to purchase one of the devices listed in this guide?

No. You may purchase any device that meets the minimum specifications outlined in this document. Please refer to the Device Selection section when making your choice. Devices on the SPC portal offer competitive pricing, NBD (next-business-day) support and maintenance, and have all been vetted by our IT department for compatibility.

Why can't my son use an Apple MacBook (Macs)?

SPC operates a Windows-based environment to ensure smooth integration, reliable support and consistent functionality for all students.

Why do some students still use Apple MacBook (Macs)?

Some senior students still use Macs purchased prior to the school's transition to Windows-only devices. All newly purchased devices for all year groups must now be Windows.

Can my son use his phone instead?

No. Smartphones do not meet the minimum specifications, and mobile phone use during school hours is prohibited.

Why are minimum specifications required?

Lower-spec devices may struggle with performance, battery life and connectivity. Minimum specifications ensure a reliable and consistent learning experience for students.

What IT support is available at the College?

The College IT Department operates a dedicated Helpdesk to support students with network access, Office 365 and basic troubleshooting.

What happens if my son's device malfunctions?

Parents must return devices to the retailer or manufacturer for repair. Devices purchased through the BYODD portal include phone-based troubleshooting and next-business-day repair services (subject to parts). The College IT Department offers limited basic support and maintains a small pool of short-term loan devices.

Who is responsible for purchasing and installing extra hardware or software?

Parents and students are responsible for purchasing and installing additional hardware or software. The College provides access to Microsoft Office 365 at no cost for the duration of enrolment.

Who is responsible for storing and backing up files?

Students are responsible for saving, managing and backing up their own work. OneDrive should be used for file storage.

Does my son need a high-end device for Music, Art or Computing?

Not necessarily. The College provides specialised facilities for these subjects. A higher-spec device may assist with homework, but it is not required.

Is my son's device covered by the College's insurance?

No. Parents/carers are responsible for arranging insurance or an extended warranty, even in cases where the damage is not the student's fault.

Devices purchased through the BYODD portal include a standard 3-year onsite warranty, with optional accidental damage coverage.

Should I purchase a 4G or 5G-enabled device?

No. The College cannot filter internet accessed via mobile networks or hotspots, and their use is prohibited on campus. Smartphones brought to school must follow the Student Use of Mobile Devices Guidelines.

Why can't my son use his device at recess or lunch?

Recess and lunch are device-free to encourage conversation, play and social interaction. Students who need to complete homework may use devices in the research area of the library, but not for gaming or video viewing.

Supporting Documents in Student Diary

This BYODD guide should be read alongside all other relevant College policies located in the student diary.

This includes, but is not limited to:

Student Use of Mobile Devices

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) & Social Media Policy



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE
STRATHFIELD

St Patrick's College, Strathfield
Wangal Land
Francis Street
Strathfield NSW 2135

+61 2 9763 1000
spc@spc.nsw.edu.au
www.spc.nsw.edu.au