

Date

Dear Parents / Caregivers

## Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Elim Christian College Henderson 2024

Devices are a routine part of our teaching methodology and are integral to learning. We strongly encourage each student to have their own device and our WiFi environment enables this. Our infrastructure, its installation and operation is Ministry of Education approved and we take all reasonable steps to ensure that the wifi is used and maintained appropriately.

We operate a 'blended learning' environment featuring a range of pedagogies and eLearning practices. For students in years 5-6 devices do not feature for more than 50% of the time in our daily learning activities and in Year 7-8 devices do not feature for more than 70% of the time in our daily learning activities. This is activity-dependent but we have a serious commitment to provide a healthy well-informed digital environment in which learning and teaching is supported through the appropriate use of information and communication technologies.

We believe that the use of devices further develops our students' 21st century competencies of digital literacy, communication, and working collaboratively to problem solve and think creatively. We are also committed to create an environment in which digital technology and critical thinking work together to expand and deepen the learning experience.

### Appropriate devices

The recommendation for each year level are different:

Years 5-8: students strongly encouraged to bring their own device of choice to support their learning. If the device needs replacing, we recommend purchasing either a Chromebook or laptop/hybrid device with the following minimum specifications:

- 4GB+ RAM and 32GB+ Storage
- Physical keyboard for efficient typing and keyboard skills
- 5+ hours battery life (with constant usage)
- W/ touch screen portable devices must have a physically attached keyboard

Chromebooks are recommended for these year levels as they are robust, cost-effective, run Android apps, and their batteries endure well. Higher-end models also integrate tablet/touchscreen features. Devices must be named and have a protective sleeve or cover.

Important notes:

- We do not encourage the use of mobile phones within our classes as a learning tool.
- Student devices must not have mobile data access or VPN software installed. This would enable the devices to circumvent our school's strict internet filtering.
- N4L provides free internet filtering for homes. See [switchonsafety.co.nz](http://switchonsafety.co.nz) for more information.
- An extensive warranty and comprehensive insurance are highly recommended for all student devices.
- Although staff can assist students with troubleshooting devices that are not working properly during the school day, the maintenance of devices remains the sole responsibility of the student and the student's parents or caregivers.

More questions?

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's senior management if they have any queries about the BYOD programme.

Yours sincerely

Andy Lawrence

Principal

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