



مدرستنا الثانوية الانجليزية، الشارقة - البنين
OUR OWN ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL, SHARJAH - BOYS

GEMS
EDUCATION

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy



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Principal & CEO

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Bring Your Own Device Policy

What is a BYOD Program?

The BYOD program is where students will be trained to use their devices (laptops or tablets brought from home) to consolidate concepts taught in class. A number of parents have appreciated the use of technology in teaching and learning. The program will continue in grades 3 to 9.

Why change?

Our vision is to integrate technology with learning. We have a responsibility to fully prepare our students for the realities of the university and professional worlds into which they will move after Primary and Secondary education. Technological fluency is as essential as literacy and numeracy and will enhance creativity and inquiry-based learning, which are cornerstones of our educational philosophy. As parents, administrators, and teachers, we recognize the importance of technology, now and in the future. Indeed, the future is here, as forward thinking schools around the world have embraced the inclusion of technology as a best practice in teaching and learning. Beyond the simple reality that technology has, and will continue to change and drive the way all things get done, significant research demonstrates that meaningful use of technology in the learning process benefits the students. The development of 21st-century learning skills, including experience in consuming, filtering, and producing multi-modal content will be essential for success in university study and workplaces of the future.



What kind of educational activities will the personal devices be used for?

- Working on Google Apps for Education for various purposes such as producing documents, and spreadsheets, to discuss a concept or collaborate on a project.
- Google Apps for Education to discuss a concept or collaborate on a project
- Video and audio recordings to support learning
- Creatively collating information and producing presentations using innovative websites.
- Summarizing lessons taught on their device during class and organizing digital notebooks and folders.
- Accessing the Internet during class to research for group projects.
- Contributing to assignments
- Testing via online assessments

It is increasingly normal and desirable for students to utilize their own devices to enhance their learning across the curriculum and to pursue their own interests outside of that sphere of learning.

Extensive student surveys and meetings across GEMS schools indicate that, not only are the students ready for BYOD, they are expecting it.

The opportunity for students to learn in a Bring Your Own Device environment is an essential element of the GEMS commitment to all our students.

Hardware and Software Considerations

Q: Can my child use an iPad or Android / Windows tablet?

A: An Android/windows tablet or laptop may be used. Whichever you choose, the device must be able to connect wirelessly to the school's wireless network. All devices must have the student's name/grade and section written on it.



Q: Are there suggested accessories?

A: A padded case/carry bag is necessary to protect your child's device in transit.

Q: How can my child's device connect to the Internet?

A: The school provides a robust wireless network that students may connect to while using their devices on campus. All devices need to be registered on the network.

Q: Are 'charging stations' available so my child's electronic device can be recharged?

A: Limited power is available in classrooms, although we anticipate that not every class will be using an electronic device in every lesson, every day. Considering today's battery capacity, a fully charged device should be sufficient for lessons requiring the use of the device throughout the day.

'Charging stations' **will not** be provided. As a general rule, 4 hours of battery life on Wi-Fi should be seen as a minimum.

Q: Can my child bring more than one device?

A: No. Students may bring only one device.

Q: What software will be needed on my child's computer?

A: You do not need to purchase or install any software on your ward's device.

Whose Responsibility Is It?

Q: Who pays for the devices brought to school?

A: These devices will be purchased by and remain the property of the family.



Q: Who is responsible for any repairs or updates to personal computing devices?

A: Students and/or their parents are responsible for their personal computing devices at all times.

Q: Who is responsible for the damage, loss, or theft of devices my child brings to school?

A: Parents must stress the responsibilities their children have when bringing their own devices to school. Any devices students bring to school are their sole responsibility. Whilst the school will take due care to ensure the safety of the devices on campus, the school and GEMS Education accept no responsibility for

loss or damage to devices, however, caused. We recommend that you add any devices to your home insurance policy and check that this covers loss, theft, and damage outside of the home.

Q: Will the family need to have Internet access at home?

A: It would be very helpful to have some form of Internet access available to your child outside the school in order for them to make full use of school resources. Learning will start to take place online outside school hours as per the instruction of the teacher and, accordingly, it becomes increasingly important for students to have access to the Internet beyond the confines of the school building. We recommend 'Kidrex', a safe internet search engine for students.

Miscellaneous Information

Q: When can my child use the electronic device at school?

A: Students may use their electronic devices in class when it is deemed suitable to enhance their learning. Students should bring their devices as per the time table unless



otherwise instructed. The lesson plans on the above-mentioned days will have digital learning and literacy included in them. We expect and encourage students to make their own choices as to effective and appropriate use of technology, supported by their teachers.

Q: Will students be able to print documents from their personal computing devices?

A: Students will not be able to access printers at the School from their personal devices. The school is aiming to reduce the need for printing to a minimum, as this procedure is no longer considered to be necessary to support modern methods of effective teaching and learning.

Q: Will my child be safe online?

A: The school has the capability to monitor sites visited on all registered devices whilst they are connected to the school's Wi-Fi network. It is recognized that such an approach, on its own, is inadequate to ensure students' safety, as it is not possible to continue such monitoring outside of school. Accordingly, the school believes that digital citizenship education and a strong partnership with parents is the most effective approach to protect our students online.

School Digital Device Responsibility - Home School Agreement

Before your ward takes part in the **BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)** initiative, parents together with their wards are required to read through the **Home School Digital Device Responsibility Agreement**. **In case you misplace this copy, there will be the one put up on MyLearning in the school spaces.**

The purpose of this agreement is to ensure that all students use technology in school and at home safely, responsibly, and effectively, to facilitate learning and develop attributes of competent digital citizens.



Users' Rights and Responsibilities

- Every student has the right to feel safe while using the school's network.
- Show respect, courtesy, and respect to your peers. Cyberbullying is strictly prohibited.
- Recognize and honour the intellectual property rights (work done by your classmates) of your peers.
- Avoid experimenting with the school networks, including efforts to bypass the school's internet filters.
- Make personal devices available for inspection by an administrator, member of the SMT, SLT, or teacher.
- Use appropriate language in all communication.
- Do not attempt to use another student's password, login credentials, information, or files.
- Avoid giving out personal information such as photographs, phone numbers, usernames, and passwords.
- School-related files are the only files to be saved in a student's personal folder. Students are not allowed to store any music, games, or hidden files in their folders. Playing online commercial games in school is not permitted.
- Obey the laws and regulations of the United Arab Emirates.

(For more information, please refer to the Online Safety policy and Cyber Guide)

The Agreement

I acknowledge that I am responsible for actions on my personal device. Failure to do so will result in a loss of technological privileges.

I agree not to share my account or password details with anyone.



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I agree to respect the rights of others and use appropriate language.

I will report any incident of cyberbullying towards me or my peers to a teacher or member of the SMT or SLT

I agree **that I will not share** or post any photographs, videos or information of any member of the school community.

I agree to access only those resources that are related to learning.

I agree that the administrators, teachers and members of the SMT and SLT can access my device at any time. I agree that I, as a parent, will take full responsibility for maintenance and security settings of the device.

I agree that violation of this Digital Device Responsibility Home School Agreement will result in disciplinary action.

I have read the policy and the User agreement and fully agree to abide by it.

Name of Parent _____

Name of Student _____

Grade/Section _____

Signature of Parent _____

Signature of Student _____