



BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE POLICY

Belfast High School

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Responsibility: Board of Governors

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Rationale

We live in a world where devices are a huge part of pupils' lives. Internet-connected devices grant students access to vast repositories of information and unlock interactive learning resources. Belfast High School sees this as an opportunity to deepen pupil learning and develop digital literacy and fluency in pupils that will prepare them for the world in which they will live, learn and work.

Once parents have provided their consent to the [E-Safety and Acceptable Use Policy](#), all pupils are able to access the School's wireless network using their own devices (laptops, smartphones, tablets etc) when directed by a teacher

Permissible Device Types

Pupils may bring any personally owned device provided it is internet ready. This includes: laptops, netbooks, smartphones, iPads and tablets. Devices should be fully charged when pupils arrive to school.

Access to School Wireless Network

Parents provide their consent for their child to access the School network by completing the Consent Form in Appendix 2 of the E-Safety and ICT Acceptable Use Policy.

While extensive improvements have been made to the School's WiFi network capacity, the School cannot guarantee connectivity or the quality of the connection with personal devices. Use of the wireless network is entirely at the risk of the user, and the School is not responsible for any loss of any information that may arise from the use of the wireless connection, or for any loss, injury or damages resulting from the use of the wireless connection.

Access to the BHS wireless network is a privilege, not a right. Any use of the wireless network entails personal responsibility and compliance with all School rules. The School wireless network has educational filters and any attempt to bypass these will be treated as a serious breach of the E-Safety and ICT Acceptable Use Policy.

Optional Participation

The use of personal devices by pupils is optional, and pupils who do not participate in BYOD will not be penalised and alternate modes of participation will be available.

Guidelines for Use

The use of personal devices falls under the School's existing [E-Safety and Acceptable Use Policy](#)

- Use of personal devices during the School day is at the discretion of teachers and staff. Pupils must only use devices as and when directed by their teacher.
- The use of personal devices at School is purely educational. They should not be used to contact friends or family and use of any social media is strictly prohibited.
- Pupils shall not use personal devices outside of their classroom. Devices should remain 'not seen and not heard' outside the classroom.
- Pupils shall make no attempts to circumvent the School's network security and/or filtering policies. This includes setting up proxies and downloading programs to bypass security.
- Pupils are advised to have anti-virus software running on their device.

- Pupils may not use devices to record, transmit, or post images or video of a person or persons during School hours or during School activities, unless otherwise allowed by a teacher.
- Pupils must not bring a device on premises that infects the network with a virus, Trojan, or program designed to damage, alter, destroy, or provide access to unauthorised data or information.
- The School is authorised to collect and examine any device that is suspected of causing technology problems or was the source of an attack or virus infection.
- Pupils and parents should be aware that devices are subject to search by School administrators if the device is suspected of a violation of the pupil code of conduct. If the device is locked or password protected the pupil will be required to unlock the device.
- Pupils need to bring devices that are fully charged. There is no provision for the charging of devices in School.

Consequences for Misuse/Disruption (one or more may apply)

- Access to the wireless network may be removed.
- Serious misuse of internet connected-devices will be regarded as a breach of the School's Behaviour Management Policy and will be dealt with in accordance with this policy.

School Liability Statement

- Pupils are expected to act responsibly with regards to their own device, keeping it up to date and as secure as possible. It is their duty to be responsible for the upkeep and protection of their devices.
- Personal devices are brought into the School entirely at the risk of the owner and the decision to bring the device in to the School lies with the user (and their parents/carers) as does the liability for any loss or damage resulting from the use of the device in School.
- The School accepts no responsibility or liability in respect of lost, stolen or damaged devices while at School or on activities organised or undertaken by the School. Installing tracking software can help locate the equipment if it is stolen, and keeping track of the device's serial number, model and type will be helpful as well.
- Pupils and parents are encouraged to ensure that they regularly back up important data on any pupil's devices.
- The School accepts no responsibility for any malfunction of a device due to changes made to the device while on the School network or whilst resolving any connectivity issues.
- The School is not responsible for the day to day maintenance or upkeep of the user's personal device such as the charging of any device, the installation of software updates or the resolution of hardware issues.
- The School is not responsible for any possible device charges to your account that might be incurred during approved School-related use.
- During the course of the School year, additional rules regarding the use of personal devices may be added.