



Ellerslie School

EST 1877

"To be the best we can be."



Bring Your Own Device (B.Y.O.D.) 2024

Years 5-8 students at Ellerslie School

At Ellerslie School we are B.Y.O.D. in Years 5-8. Students and Whānau are encouraged to bring a Chromebook to school to support their learning. This letter outlines information for families to help make the decision as to whether or not you are going to bring a device to school.

The school became BYOD for Year 5-8 from the beginning of 2017. There has been a successful uptake since the start with currently 80% of Year 5-8 students using their own device at school. This device is used throughout the day to support their learning in most subjects. Teachers in Years 5-8 continue to undergo robust professional development around the use of Chromebooks in the classroom so they can provide rich, relevant and best practice learning experiences in a safe, well structured digital environment.



Bring Your Own Device allows students to have a one-to-one device that is set up to their specifications for their learning. This has many benefits, including:

- enabling students to take increasing responsibility for their own learning
- empowering students to learn at their own pace and place
- teaches students how to discern what tool will best help with their learning
- encouraging and enabling teachers to more easily implement personalised learning
- prepares students to become digitally fluent as they will be working in an environment with an increasing number of technologies and IT/collaborative/cloud based tools
- encouraging students to become lifelong learners and use information in a way and at a time that suits them
- strengthening the home/school partnership as the devices make it more accessible for whanau to engage in their children's learning and knowing what they are learning at school.

How does Google Apps for Education (G.A.F.E.) work?

The Google Apps for Education suite offers apps for email, calendar, blogs, documents, presentations and website creation as well as Google Drive, which is a way of organising all of the work completed on these apps. The use of these 'apps' is free and can be used in 'the cloud' - a collaborative environment where others can access and work on documents together in real time. G.A.F.E. allows students to access their work from school, home, the local library - anywhere with an internet connection.

What is Hapara Teacher Dashboard?

Hapara Teacher Dashboard is an interface which brings together the tools of G.A.F.E. in an overview style so that teachers can access, set tasks, mark and comment on work completed in the G.A.F.E. suite. It gives teachers the ability to oversee an entire class of work, like they would a class set of exercise books.

It also allows teachers and senior school staff the ability to oversee all the online activity of any student account. This gives the ability to do a range of things, including, but not limited to: changing passwords if students forget them or suspending an account if the Student User Agreement is breached.

You can read more about Teacher Dashboard here: [Teacher Dashboard](#)

Why a Chromebook?

- chromebooks work seamlessly in the Google Environment
- cloud-based storage
- automatically complete software updates without disruption
- light-weight
- less on-device distractions

How long will my child spend on their device?

At Ellerslie School we are aiming for a style of 'blended learning' in our classes. This means that students will enjoy learning both with their devices and also with more traditional means of learning as the school firmly believes both styles are very effective. Students will be encouraged to take regular breaks from their screen in what is considered good practice for this form of learning.



Will the use of these devices in classrooms cause my child to be distracted?

Chromebooks at school will have the sole use of being used for educational purposes. Our current learners are more engaged and motivated by this type of learning, rather than distracted. As with all learning styles, teachers will also have procedures and guidelines in place for ensuring that learning is happening.

How is access to potentially harmful material limited at school?

As with all internet use at Ellerslie School, there is a filter that blocks visiting sites that may be potentially harmful. This system is far more robust than what is ordinarily in place in the home setting and is tested regularly by our IT Support. The Online Safety Agreements that students and parents sign has very clear guidelines for what to do if and when an issue occurs. If a security breach or misuse occurs, this is used as an important authentic learning opportunity, as these things may occur both inside and outside of school and students need to be prepared for how to deal with such situations.

How will the device be kept safe at school?

BYOD classrooms have procedures in place for looking after devices, where to place the device when they are not in use or when students are out of the classroom. Although every effort is taken to keep devices safe by both the students and the teachers, the overall responsibility lies with the student to follow these procedures to ensure the safety of their device. Families purchasing Chromebooks are strongly encouraged to purchase an insurance plan as the **school will not be liable for any damage or breakages to the BYOD devices.**

What about the other students who do not have a device?

Students who do not have a device will have access to school owned devices. There are school Chromebooks and iPads available to support their learning. As the number of BYOD increases this means more school equipment becomes available for those who don't have their own device. Ellerslie School will continue to purchase IT equipment for classes to supplement the BYOD devices brought in by students.

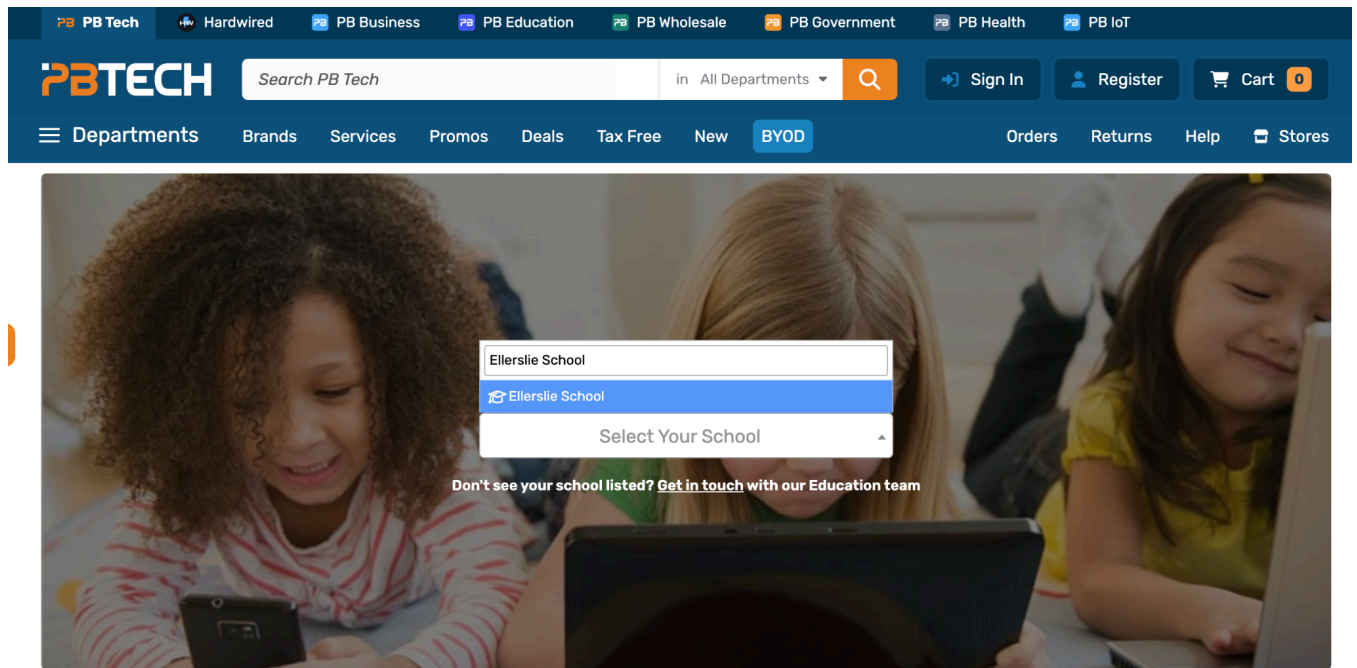
What if I decide not to purchase a device?

Devices can be purchased at any time of the year, or not at all. Students will still continue to learn in a 'blended learning' style and will not be disadvantaged. School owned devices will need to be shared amongst students and one-to-one is unlikely.

Questions

If you have any further questions about B.Y.O.D. at Ellerslie School, please contact Deputy Principal, Kate Giebel - kateg@ellerslie.school.nz.

To purchase a BYOD device head to <https://www.pbtech.co.nz/education/byod> then search for Ellerslie School. Please enter the code BYOD2024 to receive the educational pricing.



Alternatively Noel Leeming offers a range of suitable devices as well. [Noel Leeming - Chromebooks](#)

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) USER INFORMATION AND AGREEMENT

For students in Years 5 to 8

Students:

1. I will know where my Chromebook is at all times.
2. I will not lend my Chromebook to others, except when sharing with a sibling.
3. While I may be involved in group activities, I will be the only individual using my Chromebook.
4. I will use the device for educational purposes only and websites used will be of educational benefit.
5. I will respect my Chromebook and will always try to keep it safe, including not leaving it on the floor, not having food and/or drinks near my Chromebook and returning it to the storage cabinet when not in use.
6. If I am using my Chromebook at Before School and/or After School Care, the same rules will apply as when using it in class.
7. I will be responsible for ensuring my Chromebook is fully charged at home before bringing it to school each day.
8. I will not bring chargers to school.
9. I understand that my school email account used to log in to the Chromebook is under the school domain, and that teachers can access my account at any time and are able to monitor my use.
10. I will keep my password private from other students. Teachers may request my password at any time.
11. I will not use screensavers, backgrounds or pictures that are offensive.
12. I will not use school email addresses to set up other accounts on the Internet without teacher permission, e.g. registering for a Facebook or Prezi account.
13. I will not download additional apps or software onto my Chromebook unless approved by a teacher.
14. I understand that on my Chromebook, YouTube will be set to Safety Mode and I am not to change this.

Parents/guardians:

1. I agree to manage and monitor my child's use of their Chromebook at home.
2. If I choose to connect my child's Chromebook to our home network, I understand the same filters that apply at school, may not apply at home.
3. I understand that allowing my child to bring a Chromebook to school is at my risk, and should loss or damage occur, it is my responsibility to repair or replace.
4. I understand that the school strongly recommends device insurance and that it is up to me to make my own provisions for this.

Name of student: _____

Student's signature: _____

Date: _____

Name of parent/guardian: _____

Parent/guardian's signature: _____

Date: _____