



# Ellerslie School

EST 1877

*"To be the best we can be."*



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

Years 5-8 students at Ellerslie School

At Ellerslie School we are B.Y.O.D. in Years 5-8. Students and Whanau have the choice 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 85% of Year 5-6 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 have been undergoing 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, as well as in a way which works for them
- 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 family and 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: <http://hapara.com/products/#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. Teacher Dashboard also allows teachers to monitor students' emails and correspondence in the Google suite so as to limit potential negative behaviour and exposure here. The school also has Linewize, an internet filtering and management system operating 24/7. 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.

PB Tech offer advice and discounts for Ellerslie School families. You can find out more at [www.pbtech.co.nz/education/byod](http://www.pbtech.co.nz/education/byod)

### **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](mailto:kateg@ellerslie.school.nz)).