2024 - BYOD Minimum Specifications Advice

Please take this document with you when purchasing a new laptop for use at Coolum State High School.

Coolum State High School recommends that all laptops used by students meet the minimum requirements below to ensure suitability for curriculum-based activities. The minimum specifications provided reflect the needs for connecting to business or corporate-grade Wi-Fi protocols.

Important Note: In order to connect your student's device to our network and install necessary software, they must have administrator access on the device. This means that all restrictions or parental controls must be removed prior to the network connection workshop (typically with in the first two weeks of term 1). Once your student has completed this workshop restrictions and all parental controls can be reinstated.

Devices Accepted at School
- Laptops running Windows 10 or 11 Home or Pro with the latest updates.
- Apple Laptops running Mac OS 12+ (Monterey or newer).

Unsupported Devices at School
- **Android devices** are not compatible with our system.
- **Windows 10 S Mode and Windows 11 S Mode** are not compatible with our system.
- **Google Chromebooks** - Various manufacturers produce products known as Chromebooks (eg Linux). This is a Google enclosed ecosystem that does not support our Microsoft operating environment. These devices should not be purchased for school use as they are reliant on cloud services to operate which are blocked by Education Queensland filters.
- **iPad minis are** not supported.
- **iPads and Android Tablet devices** should not be purchased as a primary BYO device, devices like the iPad and Android device are not suitable educational devices. They provide inferior functionality for typing large documents, running school-based software packages such as Adobe Photoshop, AutoDesk Inventor, Visual Studio etc.

When Purchasing your Device
- Parents can and should purchase from their preferred computer supplier. All warranty and service issues will be the parents' responsibility. Coolum State High School is not involved in these arrangements, as these are personal devices.
- We strongly recommend that protection plans are purchased with all devices. Accidents do happen so having a warranty and accidental damage protection plan to cover the device for the duration of its life is advisable.
- We encourage families to consider future proofing your investment by considering the subjects chosen and the device requirements for these. For example, graphics programs or video editing software imposes higher demands on devices.

Coolum State High School cannot tell you what to buy or who to buy your new device from, however we can offer general advice to parents.

2024 – BYOD Specifications – Windows and Mac Devices

	Minimum	Recommended	Graphics	Apple MacBook
Operating System	Windows 10 or 11 (Windows S mode is not supported, Windows Home or Pro is required)		Mac OS 12+ (Monterey or newer)	
Processor	Intel i3 Processer or better AMD Ryzen 3 or better	Intel i5 Processer or better AMD Ryzen 5 or better	Intel i7 Processer or better AMD Ryzen 6 or better	Apple M1 or newer meet all the hardware requirements of the school
Memory	4GB RAM or more	8GB RAM or more	16GB RAM or more	
Storage Capacity	256GB SSD or higher	256GB SSD or higher	512GB SSD or higher	256GB SSD or higher
Screen Size	12" display or higher (1920x1080 resolution required)	13" display or higher	13" display or higher	
Graphics		1GB minimum	4GB minimum	
Wireless Connectivity	802.1x compatible 5GHz radio capabilities required as we no longer run 2.4GHz.			
Required Software	**Antivirus**: At a very minimum an Antivirus software solution must be installed on student laptops and regularly updated in order to be able to use a device in Education Queensland. You are not required to purchase antivirus software as Windows 10 and 11 come standard with Microsoft Defender and there are several free options for Mac. Please Note: As of 2020, Education Queensland does not fully support Trend Micro anti-virus to operate within schools. We advise against purchasing this product.			
	Microsoft Office: All students can access Microsoft Office 365 software free of charge. If your device has office pre-installed, please sign in with your student's school email and password to licence the product for free. Please do not sign in with a personal email address as this may cause issues with access to their documents. If your device does not have the Office programs installed, or if your software subscription has ended, students can log into Microsoft Online via https://portal.office.com using their school email and password to download and install the Office programs. Note: the program downloads are quite large and will take some time to download. For those who have no internet connection or poor Internet connectivity, the school can provide the Office 365 suite to students via USB. Students are requested to see the school IT technician to take advantage of this option.			
Protection / Accidental Damage Plan	Device protection plans (both warranty and accidental damage insurance) are strongly recommended with all laptops and should be discussed at time of purchase.			
Important Note	In order to connect your child's device to our network and install necessary software, they must have administrator access on the device. This means that all restrictions or parental controls must be removed prior to the network connection workshop (typically with in the first two weeks of Term 1). Once your child has completed this workshop restrictions and all parental controls can be reinstated.			

Queensland Government