

Redwood BYOD FAQs

What if my child can't be trusted to have their own device?

BYOD is totally optional at Redwood at this stage. It is a family's decision whether they feel their child is ready for this responsibility or not. Children without their own devices will still have access to shared classroom devices.

What if I can't afford a device?

If you are wishing your child to BYOD, and they do not already own a suitable device, we are hoping to be able to help with information around leasing or HP options.

What if some children have flasher devices than others?

Like all things in school life, some students will own things that are more valuable than other students. We see this in clothes, lunches, and stationery choices. This is a part of life and we find the majority of our students are really good at realising that everyone is different, and accept those differences gracefully.

What will happen if my child breaks the BYOD rules?

Any rule breaks will be dealt with on a case by case basis. Usually this will begin with a discussion between child and teacher, and in most instances a verbal warning not to continue. Repeated breaches may result in extra learning around the schools e-values being completed and possible suspensions from using devices.

What if another child breaks my child's device?

Part of the student's agreement states that the student will be fully responsible for their device at all times. This includes not allowing others to use it and placing it in the safe lock up storage when not in use. This should prevent any other child damaging the device. However, accidents do happen, your device may be covered by your contents insurance and you could check this with your insurance provider as every policy is different.

What about handwriting?

Handwriting and written work still has a place in Redwood school. Teaching children the art of handwriting is still part of our curriculum and will be timetabled in alongside all our other curriculum areas.

How long will my child spend on the device each day?

This is ultimately at the teachers discretion, and depends on the daily timetable, but within a busy classroom the child is likely to spend anything between 0-2 hours a day. This would be broken into smaller chunks as children move from group work, to independent work, to the library, to marimbas, to sport....etc

Where will the devices be kept during the day?

Each classroom teacher will have organised a lockable cupboard/cabinet within their classroom for devices to be placed when not used and during break times. It will be the student's responsibility to put their devices in this place.

What if the device goes flat through the day?

Charging of devices must only be done at home. A device without any charge will be locked away to take home and charge for the next day. It is recommended that devices are charged every night.

How do I know my child will be safe when working online?

- *students are not permitted to put personal details online and will only use their first name*
- *photos/work will only be put online with parents signed consent (this is already in place at Redwood)*
- *password security is discussed in detail and is part of the digital passport*
- *school filter system is called Watchdog – a Ministry approved program*
- *each child's account is monitored by Linewize and Hapara*

Will my child need stationery?

Yes - but this is likely to be less than has been needed in the past. As we are in a transition stage with BYOD, we are still working on exactly what the right amount will be.

What software will we have to have?

We believe that learning is task based, not tool based. But to make your tool most useful it is sometimes helpful to have some software to perform tasks and individualise learning. Classroom teachers may make suggestions for software/apps if they find a student is unable to find a way to complete a given task. Luckily as we are a GAFE school many tasks can be completed with only an internet connection. Do consider virus protection if your device requires it.

What are the consequences for students who do not adhere to Responsible Use Agreement?

This is decided through restorative justice and is dependent on severity of the situation. The use of a device in class is always at the teacher discretion. Devices are a tool to assist them in applying a learning process. It is a privilege not a right.

In all cases of agreements being broken:

- 1. Parents will be contacted.*
- 2. Devices will be taken to the office and parents will be required to pick it up at a time that suits.*
- 3. Your child / children may not be able to use their device at school for a length of time.*

What if my child accidentally visits an inappropriate site?

We take every precaution to prevent this. However, there are no guarantees when using the internet. It is vital that we encourage the children to seek help by an adult without feeling like they are in trouble. We discuss what to do and why this happened. This is how we sometimes learn about keeping ourselves safe online.

Children are taught to:

- 1. Lower their laptop lid or bring device to adult.*
- 2. Share what happened (without feeling like they are in trouble) with an adult not other children, so it can be handed safely and swiftly as the teacher records the incident.*
- 3. Discuss that this sometimes happens because so many people put information online and not all of it is good. We make good choices and close the site down and think about why it might have happened. (Incorrect spelling in search engine, not specific searching, wording of a search)*
- 4. Not get upset or feel like they have done something wrong.*
- 5. Focus on the learning of the situation.*

Why can't the school provide a device for every child?

Our school has a very limited operations grant and cannot afford to provide that large amount of devices.

Who do I ask if I want to know more?

E-mail any further questions to office@redwoodprimary.school.nz and we will add them here with their answers.

Please note:

These FAQs are current at Term 3 2016 and may be updated and added to.