Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) - Years 5-8

At Paraparaumu Beach School, we have a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programme for our Years 5-8 students. This initiative recognises the critical role of digital literacy in modern education and aims to empower students to become digitally capable, global citizens, as outlined in the New Zealand Curriculum.

In Years 5-8, a portion of our learning programme utilises online resources and the Google Classroom platform. This allows for interactive learning, collaborative projects, and personalised learning pathways. Individual device access is now a fundamental learning requirement, enabling increased digital fluency, confidence, engagement, and real-time feedback.

Device Recommendations:

The Chromebook is our preferred device for BYOD. These devices are lightweight, quick to access the internet, have a long battery life, do not require antivirus software and because we use Google Classroom there is no need for Microsoft Office. Plus, they're compatible with our local colleges, ensuring a seamless transition.

Chromebooks can be purchased from various retail outlets or through Norrcom, our IT service provider. Wherever you buy from, just make sure to ask about warranty and insurance. Most of our Years 5-8 students bring their own device, however, we do have a limited number of school chromebooks that students can use at school if they do not have access to a device of their own.

School Responsibilities:

At PBS our school network is secured through the Ministry of Education's N4L (Network for Learning), which provides essential filtering and protection against unsafe sites and external threats. We further enhance online safety using Family Zone (Linewize and Classwize) for additional filtering, monitoring, and rule setting. We also utilise Google Safe Search and implement restrictions on YouTube. We recognise the necessity for teaching students ways to keep safe and make positive choices when using digital technologies.

A balanced approach is key to our teaching programmes. While devices are being used more frequently, we emphasise "the right tool for the job," providing opportunities for students to use both digital and traditional methods.

Student Responsibilities:

Device ownership and care are the responsibility of the student and family. We encourage careful handling, labeling of devices, and taking them home daily to charge. The school is not liable for loss or damage.

Students are also responsible for ensuring their own behaviour is safe, friendly and fair. This means following our school's values and digital citizen expectations when online or using digital tools.

Parent/Whānau Responsibilities:

We recognise the importance of a collaborative approach to digital safety. Parents/whānau play a crucial role in monitoring and guiding their child's online activity at home. While we implement robust filtering and monitoring at school, these measures may not be replicated at home.

We encourage you to utilise resources like Netsafe, Keep it real online, Our Kids Online, and The Parenting Place for advice on responsible device usage. Netsafe offers free, private assistance for online safety concerns and can be reached at 0508 NETSAFE (0508 638 723) or via their website: https://netsafe.org.nz.

Questions:

Please don't hesitate to contact the school office for more information.