



# Bring Your Own Device FAQs

## Why is Ōtūmoetai College recommending Chromebooks?

Ōtūmoetai College uses the GSuite for Education platform as its primary tool for storing, creating and sharing information.

Particularly in the junior school, the Google tools available on Chromebooks are adequate for students to complete their school work. Chromebooks are a low-cost option and will have a long life when taken care of.

They also have a long battery life and will not need to be charged while at school, which is not permitted. Students must come to school with their devices fully charged.

It is important to note that Chromebooks usually have to be connected to the internet for functions to work.

Additional stand-alone software cannot be installed on Chromebooks; however, Chrome apps may be installed from the Chrome Web store and GSuite Marketplace.

## My family already owns a device. Won't that do?

We don't expect families to buy new devices if they already have something suitable. Please refer to the BYOD guidelines on the Enrolments page of our website for more information. It is vital that any devices meet the minimum requirements.

Note that phones and tablets including iPads are not acceptable learning devices for our BYOD programme.

## What features of a Chromebook should I consider?

Chromebooks are manufactured by a number of different companies. Unlike laptops, they all have very similar features. Choice can come down to personal taste - the look and feel of the device. However, you should consider the following:

**Construction** - look for sturdy casing and strong hinges plus a strong power cable connector to the device. Some Chromebooks are promoted as being 'ruggedized' or 'military-tested' - these may offer better construction.

**Built-in-camera** - this feature is not essential but useful for distance learning.

**Auto-update expiry date** - all Chromebooks have a date at which Google will no longer automatically update the operating system. This date varies between make and model - search for "Chrome Auto-Update Policy" to find the relevant dates. Many Chromebooks on the market have a life-span between 4 and 6 years. Always check before going for a cheap deal or a Trade Me purchase as this may be old stock!!

## What technical specifications are required for my child's device?

**Chromebook (recommended)** : must have the latest version of Google Chrome

**Windows:** Windows 10 operating system

**Mac:** Max OSX 10.14 or higher

## How will my child be kept safe online?

Students, parents and schools all play a part in keeping children safe online.

**Students:** All students are required to sign an agreement which outlines the school's expectations of how they use digital technology.

**School:** During school hours students' online activities will be managed by our wireless, filtering and firewall systems which control where students can go online and reports back to us when activities of concern are detected.

**Parents:** Outside school hours, student devices will not be managed by the school. Parents should ensure that they are aware of how students are using their devices. Support and advice can be obtained from Netsafe, a national organisation committee promoting safety online.

## How will my child's device be kept safe at school?

Students are responsible for the safekeeping of their own device at school. The school has security cameras installed in a limited number of public areas. Parents are advised to have insurance cover.

We also recommend that devices are stored in a protective case or cover before being placed into school bags for transportation.

## Do I need to purchase any additional software or virus protection?

There is no requirement for additional software on a Chromebook.

At junior level no additional software is required. Virus protection on a Windows or Mac device is the owner's responsibility.

## What happens if my child's device is out of action?

The school has a limited number of devices available for loan on a daily basis from the Library. These are issued on a first-come, first served basis and a charge may apply for the loan. Students may only borrow these devices for a few days at any one time except by prior arrangement with the school.

## Are there ways I can finance the purchase of a device?

Various finance options may be available through the vendor of the Chromebook (see separate list of preferred suppliers). The school is unable to provide finance for the purchase of devices.

## What happens if, for personal reasons, I am not in a position to purchase a Chromebook at the present time?

In cases of hardship, an application may be made to the school for assistance. Please contact Jude Brown, Deputy Principal via the school office.