

UCHSK Bring Your Own Device Policy (BYOD) 2015

In Semester 2 of 2015, UC High School Kaleen (UCHSK) began the use of online learning platforms through personal electronic devices in classrooms. The Year 9 cohort was selected as our targeted group, whilst other year groups’ students and teachers are encouraged to engage with the learning platforms. Full implementation across the school will occur during 2016.

**Online learning platforms allow students to:**

* access real-world learning platforms that are easy to use and familiar to them, so they can learn, create, communicate and collaborate from anywhere.
* connect to reliable high-speed internet, so they are connected to learning, their teachers and each other as a learning community.

These online learning platforms have been created and established by the ACT Government to be secured and protected. The main online platform chosen for schools to use, Google Apps for Education ([GAFE](https://sites.google.com/a/ed.act.edu.au/etdgafe/)), can be accessed through the ACT Government’s SchoolsNET [digital backpack](http://www.det.act.gov.au/teaching_and_learning/learn-anywhere-ict-for-students/resources-anywhere-digital-backpack). This allows students to have access to their learning resources from anywhere through internet connections using their current school log on. Students will only have access to GAFE once they have submitted the Directorate’s *GAFE and ICT Acceptable Use* permission notes. To access other applications outside of the GAFE platforms, students will need to submit the school’s *Third Party Permission* note.

Online Learning Platforms and Applications

The GAFE environment has a host of applications available to educational institutions for use in school communities. The core applications provided are email, calendar, documents (docs), slides, spreadsheets, google communities and forms. These allow staff and students to create, share and collaborate in an online space where the school can monitor usage (as we do with our current network). A range of other applications (Apps) are available to load onto each student's account, such as Mathspace or Socrative. Additional Apps further enhance learning for students in the school environment.

What is BYOD?

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) refers to the practice of students bringing personal devices to the learning environment. Bringing their own device of choice allows students’ access to learning that is personalised and follows them wherever they go. Students are required to use their own devices in a responsible way, in accordance with the ACT Directorate’s policy and the operational guidelines set out in the [*Directorate’s Communities Online: Acceptable Use of ICT – Parent and Student Guidelines*](http://www.det.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/508896/Communities-Online-Policy2.pdf)as well as the *SchoolsNET Operational Guide for schools*. Students will be able to connect their devices to the school’s recently upgraded WIFI infrastructure with no cost to students or families. Devices covered by this policy include portable devices with wireless communication capabilities such as tablets (e.g. iPads), mobile phones, Chromebooks, laptops and Netbooks. Please keep in mind that some devices have their limitations and are not ideally compatible with GAFE. For those families that are unable to provide a device, Chromebooks are available to borrow from the library on a daily basis to ensure that students are not disadvantaged.

Do I have to purchase a new device for my child?

UC High School Kaleen understands that purchasing new ICT equipment can be expensive for families. We encourage parents and children to review current personal devices that they might have at home prior to purchasing a new device for each child. Although there are many things to consider in the use of a device, to ensure your current devices will meet the needs of your child, please consider the following:

* What is the battery life expectancy?

The device will need to maintain at least seven hours of battery life without needing to be charged. Students will not be able to charge their device at school.

* Does the device have the ability to link up to WIFI?

All devices must be able to link to the school’s WIFI; students will not be able to plug into the current broadband system.

* Is the device durable and lightweight?

As students will be responsible for their devices, it is important that the device is lightweight and can fit into their bag. We recommend that students bring devices that have a hard case.

BYOD Recommendations

If families are considering purchasing a new device for their child, there are a variety that can be purchased from any electrical store. Some stores offer alternative methods of payment such as ‘Flexi Rent’. The schools under the Directorate’s PED Policy are unable to assist in the purchase of devices. Before purchasing a new device, we encourage families to consider the purpose of the device: Will it be just for school? Or are you looking for a device to serve a range of purposes?

For school use only, UCHSK’s recommends the Chromebook. Chromebooks are inexpensive yet fast, lightweight, durable and the most secure device best suited to a school environment. Despite some limitations, Chromebook meets all the current needs of students to actively engage in their learning. After testing and user experience by both staff and students, Chromebooks are proving to be significantly more efficient than any other device. Chromebooks are a popular choice for ACT schools and may be difficult to find in the shops, some retailers are selling chromebooks on their online stores.

**Chromebooks are also:**

● The optimal device for the Google Apps teaching and learning platform used here at UCHSK, and across the Education and Training Directorate as they take approx. 10 seconds to log onto the system (faster than our school’s current PCs), and have a battery life well over 10 hours (per charge).

● It is the device we are best able to provide technical support for.

● Devices that do not ‘stand out’ (as this is what the majority of our students use) are much less likely to be stolen.

It is stated in the ACT Directorate policy that chargers that have not been tagged and tested by the school cannot be used​ at the school. However, charging of personal devices should occur at home and not at school.

For a comparison of devices please refer to the [End of Life Policy](https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/6220366?hl=en&ref_topic=6274572)

Security and Responsibility Around BYOD

The school WIFI network (SchoolsNET) provides a secured and filtered access to the Internet. The ACT Directorates GAFE Apps are also secured and protected. Students can also access these secure online resources at home by going the through the SchoolsNET Digital Backpack. Students using their own devices on the school’s network should set up secure access to their device, to prevent fraudulent use of their device by someone else.

**To provide additional security on your personal device we recommend doing the following:**

* Current Anti-Malware protection should be installed on the portable device. Advice may be available from someone familiar with a particular device, but the school will not be responsible for setup on any device.
* UC High School Kaleen , the Education and Training Directorate and the ACT Government are not liable for loss of, or damage to, a personal device while the device is on school premises. The school recommends that families purchase insurance for accidental breakage or theft. It is the responsibility of the student that the device is safe and secured at all times. Although students could store their device in school lockers, we advise that the best option is it to keep it with them at all times. We also recommend that a case is purchased to further protect a student’s personal device.
* UC High School Kaleen reserves the right to inspect the device or internet usage if it is believed that Acceptable Use or BYOD Policies have been violated.
* Students must follow guidelines given by teachers as to appropriate use of devices and must observe teacher directions when asked not to use personal devices during lessons.
* Students must comply with privacy provisions of the Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy.

The ACT Directorate PED policies outline the responsibilities (Section 5) of the use of personal devices. Students who do not adhere to the Directorate’s acceptable use agreements will find that access to the online platforms will be suspended for a period of time.

How Schools protect Students Online

* Students must comply with privacy provisions of the Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy.
* Strict Internet filtering and monitoring of internet traffic
* Acceptable use of ICT Agreements
* Online ‘ethical and safe’ behaviours are specifically taught
* Cyber-bullying is bulling, and if occurring at school will be followed up as such.

Related Documents and policies for public viewing:

[*Directorate’s Communities Online: Acceptable Use of ICT – Parent and Student Guidelines*](http://www.det.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/508896/Communities-Online-Policy2.pdf)

[End of Life Policy](https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/6220366?hl=en&ref_topic=6274572)

[Google Apps for Education](https://sites.google.com/a/ed.act.edu.au/etdgafe/)

[Digital Backpack](http://www.det.act.gov.au/teaching_and_learning/learn-anywhere-ict-for-students/resources-anywhere-digital-backpack)

[Use of Personal Electronic Devices (PEDS) in Schools PED](http://www.det.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/policy_a-z)

Related Documents and policies for schools:

Bring Your Own Personal Electronic Device Guidelines for Schools

PED guidelines

Schools Net Operational Guide