Bring Your Own Device (B.Y.O.D.)

Policy document

Ratified by the Governing Body – March 2016

Policy:

The Wey Valley School uses learning technology as one way of enhancing our curriculum and to teach the skills, knowledge and behaviours students will need as responsible citizens in the modern world. Students learn collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking in a variety of ways throughout the school day. In an effort to increase access to those 21st Century skills, WVS will allow personal devices on our school grounds for students who follow the Acceptable Use Policy and the attached rules regarding B.Y.O.D.

The Wey Valley School strives to provide appropriate and adequate technology to support learning. The use of personal devices by students is optional. Students who do not participate in B.Y.O.D. will not be penalized and alternative modes of access will be available.

An important component of B.Y.O.D will be education about appropriate online behaviours. We will review cyber-safety rules with students frequently throughout the course of the school year and will offer reminders and reinforcement about safe online behaviours through our SMSC programme in Personal Development lessons, ICT, Assemblies and by engaging with local specialist services from the Safer Schools Team run by the Police. Safeguarding of Children is our primary concern and all staff will consider that as a priority in planning for use of technology and in their management of lessons.

In addition to the rules outlined in this policy, students will be expected to comply with all class and school rules while using personal devices. The use of technology is not a necessity but a privilege. When abused, privileges will be taken away.

Device Types:

For the purpose of this policy, the word "devices" will include: laptops, netbooks, cell phones, smart phones, IPods, IPads, tablets, and eReaders (eg: Kindle). Please note that gaming devices with internet access (eg: Nintendo 3DS, PSP, WiU) are not permissible at this time.

Rules:

Students participating in B.Y.O.D. must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, Acceptable Use Policy and all school Policies, particularly Internet Acceptable Use and safeguarding.

Each teacher has the discretion to allow and regulate the use of personal devices in the classroom and on specific projects.

Approved devices must be switched off or in silent mode while on school campus, unless otherwise allowed by a teacher. Headphones may be used with teacher permission.

Devices may not be used to cheat on assignments, quizzes, or tests or for non-instructional purposes (such as making personal phone calls and text messaging).

Students may not use devices to record, transmit, or post photographic images or video of a person or persons on campus during school hours or during school activities, unless otherwise allowed by a teacher.

Devices may only be used to access computer files on internet sites which are relevant to the classroom curriculum.

Students and Parents/Guardians acknowledge that:

The school's network filters will be applied to a device's connection to the internet and any attempt to bypass the network filters is prohibited.

The Wey Valley School is legally empowered to collect and examine any device that is suspected of causing technological problems or that was the source of an attack or virus infection or incident that raises a concern about safeguarding.

Bringing a device on premises that infects the network with a virus, Trojan, or program designed to damage, alter, destroy, or provide access to unauthorized data or information may result in the removal of access privileges, suspension of ICT accounts and potentially sanctions dependent on the level of offence and damage caused.

Processing or accessing information on school property related to "hacking." Altering or bypassing network security policies is against the Computer Misuse Act and may result in exclusion from school and referral to the Police.

Using a device for any purpose which qualifies as "Cyberbullying" or raises any concern about safeguarding of another child on the grounds of physical, mental or sexual health is strictly forbidden and will result in referral to the Police and Local authority safeguarding team

Students and parents should be aware that devices are subject to search by school administrators if the device is suspected of a violation of the student code of conduct. If the device is locked or password protected the student will be required to unlock the device at the request of a school administrator.

Printing from personal devices will not be possible at school.

Personal devices must be charged prior to school and run on battery power while at school. Charging of devices will not be permitted at The Wey Valley School

Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Devices:

Each user is responsible for his/her own device(s) and should use it responsibly and appropriately. The Wey Valley School takes no responsibility for stolen, lost, or damaged devices, including lost or corrupted data on those devices. While school employees will help students identify how to keep personal devices secure, students will have the final responsibility for securing their personal devices. Please check with your homeowner's policy regarding coverage of personal electronic devices, as many insurance policies can cover theft, loss or damage. If this is not included in your household policy we would advise parents to consider purchasing specific cover for their child's device(s).

Usage Charges:

The Wey Valley School is not responsible for any possible device charges to your account that might be incurred during approved school-related use.

Network Considerations:

Users should strive to maintain appropriate bandwidth for school-related work and communications. All users will use the "WVS Guest" wireless network to access the internet. The Wey Valley School does not guarantee connectivity or the quality of the connection with personal devices. WVS IT department is not responsible for maintaining or troubleshooting student devices.