

26 September 2024

Dear parents/caregivers,

Re: Updated Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Guidelines for 2025

As you know, digital devices are an essential part of 21st-century education, and at Elim Christian College, we strive to balance both online and offline learning. Students need strong skills in mathematics, reading, handwriting, and typing to succeed in NCEA assessments and beyond. To support this, we offer a blended learning environment with a focus on using digital devices responsibly and maintaining a balance between analogue and digital learning.

We encourage all students in Years 4–13 to have their own Chromebook. These devices are ideal for school use, they are robust and above all they are easy to manage in-house to ensure students are protected online while using approved learning platforms.

From 2025, students entering Year 4 and Year 7 will be expected to bring their own Chromebook to school. iPads and tablets without keyboards will no longer be supported in these years. Please note that while each family will own the device, the school will manage its use during school hours on our secure internet connection.

Over the next three years, we anticipate that all students in Years 4–13 will be using Chromebooks (except for the minority of NCEA students who may require specialised MAC or Windows software for their courses).

Thank you for your support as we continue to enhance your child's learning experience. Please refer to the relevant information/specification sheet below.

Yours sincerely



Murray Burton MNZM, Principal



Junior Years BYOD Information Sheet

We are excited to announce that from **Year 4 onwards**, Chromebooks will be the preferred device for Junior Years as the digital tool for learning. Here's why this is a fantastic choice for our students:

- **Long Battery Life:** Chromebooks can last all day without needing to be charged, so students can focus on learning without interruptions.
- **Easy to Use:** With a built-in keyboard and a good-sized screen, Chromebooks are perfect for typing and working on projects.
- **Quick Online Access:** Students can get online fast, making it easy to use educational websites and apps.
- **Lightweight and Portable:** Chromebooks are easy to carry between home and school, making them convenient for students.
- **Equity for All:** By using the same device, all students have equal access to learning tools and resources.
- **Seamless Transition:** The Middle Years also promote the use of Chromebooks, students can seamlessly use the same device from Year 4 through to Year 10 and beyond.
- **Safe and Secure:** Students will log in with a school email, giving them access to a secure network that protects their online activity.
- **Always Up-to-Date:** Chromebooks automatically update, ensuring students have the latest features and security.
- **Safe Sharing:** Students can share their device without worrying about others accessing their personal information.

For these reasons, **all students** are strongly encouraged to bring their own chromebook to support their learning. If their current device needs replacing, we recommend purchasing a Chromebook with the following minimum specifications:

- 4GB+ RAM and 32GB+ storage
- Physical keyboard for efficient typing and keyboard skills
- 5+ hours battery life
- Must be able to capture photos and videos
- Voice recording
- Devices need to have a protective case

Purchasing a Chromebook

PB Technologies have created a purchasing portal specific to Elim Christian College's BYOD programme. You can access these portals at the following URL:

- PB Technologies: pbtech.co.nz/edu/elim (create an account and use the membership key BYOD123)

We recommend the following models:

- [Lenovo 300e G4 11.6" HD Touch Chromebook](#)
- [Lenovo 500e G3 11.6" HD Flip Touch Chromebook](#)
- [Lenovo 500e Yoga G4 12.2" WUXGA Touch Chromebook](#)



If your child is in year 5 or 6 and does not need a replacement device, they may continue to use their iPads at school until they reach Middle Years. However, students entering year 4 in 2025 will need a Chromebook.

Some important notes

- As per legislation, we do not support or allow the use of mobile phones anywhere on school grounds during the school day. PHONES AWAY FOR THE SCHOOL DAY.
- Students using mobile phones during school hours without express permission of a teacher will have them confiscated. They will **ONLY** be returned to a caregiver or parent on site. No exceptions.
- Student devices must not have mobile data access or VPN software installed. This would enable the devices to circumvent our school's strict internet filtering.
- N4L provides free internet filtering for home use. See switchonsafety.co.nz for more information.

Management and maintenance

While staff can assist students with the management and troubleshooting of devices during the school day, the maintenance of devices is the sole responsibility of the student and their parents or caregivers. Students are required to have a protective case, and their device must be clearly labeled. A key homework responsibility is for students to develop the habit of bringing a fully charged device to school each day.

More questions?

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's Deputy Principal if they have any queries about the BYOD programme:

Junior Years, DP: brieta.groenewald@elim.school.nz