Information For Parents

Network / Infrastructure

The wireless infrastructure is regularly tested and upgraded to provide students and staff with a robust, reliable and secure network. The implementation of BYOD requires changes in the way network administration is structured. There are several considerations regarding security, accessibility, filtering and cloud computing, etc.

Digital Citizenship Agreement and Cyber Safety Agreement

'Technology offers unprecedented opportunities to connect schools and learning communities locally and globally. These opportunities also come with responsibilities. Digital citizenship refers to the normls of appropriate and responsible behaviours when engaging with technology.' - PYP: Principles into Practice.

St Mark's School has a right to protect its network and technical resources. Thus, any network user who brings his/her own personal device into the school building is required to adhere to the Digital Citizenship Agreement and Cyber Safety Agreement. The Student Digital Citizenship Agreement and Cyber Safety Agreement will be reviewed and adopted annually. This agreement must be signed before a student is allowed access to a device at school.

In order to ensure parents are up to date with developments with BYOD and Digital Citizenship learning at St Mark's, Parent Education Information Sessions will take place.

FAQs For Parents

What if my child's device is stolen or damaged? What recourse can I take?

Students bring electronic communication devices to school at their own risk, just like any other personal items. The school will not be held responsible if an electronic device or other item is lost, stolen or misplaced. Some devices have a device locator; it is recommended that you enable this feature if possible.

Can my child only use the school wireless? Or can they use their own 3G or 4G service?

Yes. Students with a personally owned device need to use the BYOD wireless network. At no time are students allowed to use 3G or 4G service for data.

My child is bringing a device to school for instructional purposes. Will they have access to things they normally do with school equipment?

Your child will have access to any of the web-based software the School currently uses (Google Suite for education, library search tools etc.) Software may run differently on different devices for varying reasons.

As a parent am I required to add additional software (virus & malware protection, filter, tracking device, etc.) to my child's device?

Virus & malware protection for PC's is required. Device location software is not required, but is always a good idea. St Mark's uses and recommends Family Zone Cyber-safety software to help monitor and protect your student's device while accessing the Internet.

How will my child's device be used in the classroom?

Schools must challenge students with rigorous, personalised academic learning experiences that foster innovation and creativity. Students will engage in a cohesively integrated IB curriculum, access information and apply it to solve authentic problems in a collaborative manner.

How much instructional time will be spent on devices?

This will vary from class to class and on a day by day basis. It is anticipated that students using their own devices will streamline the integration of eLearning by making the access to devices instant and log on times kept to a minimum.

Are devices compulsory?

Yes. Devices are compulsory from Years 3-8. Please see device specifications and recommendations. There are additional devices on site, however, they may not always be available for loan. Years 1 & 2 have access to shared class Chromebooks during the school day.

How should my child connect to the wifi?

Most devices will detect a wireless connection when you are near one. Most of the time devices will ask you if you would like to join the network when prompted, choose SMCS Student BYOD from   the list. When prompted for a password the class teachers will enter the current password to be connected. Students are not given access to the password. Their teachers will do this for them.

If the device does not allow you to connect when near, In the settings menu of your device, there is usually an icon for a network, go to this icon and choose SMCS Student BYOD from the list or prompt your computer to look for wireless networks in range.

Can my child print assignments from their own device?

Printers are networked differently in the school and will not be available when you join the SMCS Student BYOD wireless Network. If work requires printing the class teacher will access and print it for the student. This is at the discretion of the teacher. Any other printing must be done at home.

What process should I follow if my device is stolen?

Bringing your own devices to school can be useful, however some risks are involved as well. It is always a good idea to record the device's serial number to have in case of theft. St Mark's Church School is not responsible for the theft of a device, nor are they responsible for any damage done to the device while at school. Any time a theft occurs, you should contact a school administrator to make him/her aware of the offense.

Why is my child filtered on their own computer? Shouldn't they be able to see what they want to on their own device?

Internet filtering is a requirement of all schools. You own your device, but the network you're using belongs to the school and Internet access will be filtered. All BYOD devices need to have Chrome installed and all students must be logged into their school google account at all times.

Is my child held accountable under the Cyber Safety and Digital Citizenship Agreements have been signed, even though this is a personal device?

Yes, students using a personally owned device must have signed both the Cyber Safety and Digital Citizenship Agreements that is located in the Student Diary.