BYOD FAQ for 2025

07 October 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians of Nazareth Students,

At Nazareth College, we are committed to providing the best quality education and educational opportunities for personalized learning. As a key part of our 1:1 Learning Technologies and Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) strategy, all Year 7 Nazareth College students are required to have a laptop computer for the start of the 2025 school year.

At Nazareth College, we have been incorporating technology into every phase of learning for a number of years now. From an educational perspective we introduced BYOD for personal learning devices at the start of 2015 to aid the students in the learning process and to ensure staff can reliably plan to utilise technology for student learning. The BYOD being a Laptop computer enables the College to more effectively support student devices and to distribute software for student learning on a more consistent basis, as many applications are not supported for tablet use. Thus, the BYOD laptop as a student learning device is an essential part of our learning environment for all our Years 7 - 10 students in 2025.

Is a BYOD laptop computer a compulsory item?
Yes. having a laptop will be necessary for students, as it will enhance their learning experience and ensure access to software that may not be compatible with tablets. This approach is focused on effectively supporting students' educational needs and ensuring consistency in the tools they use for learning. If you have any specific questions about this policy or how it will be implemented, feel free to ask!

Who will require a BYOD laptop in 2025?
In 2025, all students who are new to Nazareth College will be required to have a BYOD laptop. The decision to implement this requirement is influenced by several factors, including the potential for cost compensation through booklist reductions and the transition to eTexts over a two-year cycle (Years 7-8 or Years 9-10). This approach aims to streamline educational resources and enhance learning through technology

If my child already has a device as a Nazareth student in 2024 do I need to purchase a new device? If your child is currently a Nazareth student in 2024 and has already been using a laptop, you do not need to purchase a new device for them. Students who were in Years 7 to 11 in 2024 can continue using their existing digital learning device. However, it's important to note that all new students and any students needing a replacement device will be required to have a laptop. If you have any more questions or need further clarification, feel free to ask!

Where do parents purchase the device?
Nazareth College has not partnered with a specific retailer. Instead as retailers have year round specials parents are encouraged to take advantage of these specials and purchase a

device that meets the Nazareth College "minimum technical requirements" as detailed in Fig 1

What support will Nazareth College supply for the device?
To support student learning with their BYOD Laptop, the College provides:

- Wireless connectivity throughout the College

- School internet filtering

- Access to the Microsoft Office 365 suite (including Outlook Email, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Publisher, and more), school-provided email, and MS OneDrive

- Access to SIMON Learning Management System for morning notices, timetable, reports and more

What is needed in terms of device?
The minimum requirements for an appropriate BYOD device depend on the chosen type of device: Fig: 1

Type of Device	Laptop
Screen Size	13" (33cm) screen size or larger
Processing Memory (RAM)	16Gb minimum
Storage Memory	250Gb minimum (laptop)
Wireless Compatibility	802.11ac PS CFUUFS - Must have a Wireless Network Card
Battery	At least 6 hours of sustained battery usage
Operating System	Windows 11 Pro or newer or latest MacOS
Unsupported Devices	iPads, Tablets, Netbooks and Chromebooks

Please note that the laptops with smaller screens are not sufficient, as the much smaller screen size severely compromises the ability to effectively navigate the eTexts and other resources.

When do students need the device?
Parents should look to purchase a suitable device prior to the commencement of the school year. students should have their laptop device. It is important that the laptop is turned on prior to the 1st day of the school calendar year.

What type of physical protection is required?
Nazareth College requires all student laptops to be well-protected with a sturdy case that protects all parts of the casing and screen, students should have either a padded sleeve or a shoulder bag for their device.

If a student already has a device, it is important to understand that a sturdy case / sleeve / bag is compulsory. Students who arrive on the first day without suitably sturdy protection

for carrying their device between classes will be required to purchase one. Think of it as part of the uniform.

We already have an older device at home: do we need to upgrade?

Deciding whether to upgrade your device depends on a few factors:

1. **Performance**: Is the current device slow or unresponsive during tasks? If it struggles with basic applications or updates, an upgrade might be beneficial.

2. **Storage**: Do you have enough storage for your needs? If you're frequently running out of space, it could impact performance.

3. **Learning Requirements**: Does your device meet the minimum specifications for any software or tools you need for learning? Check if the device can run necessary programs efficiently.

4. **Battery Life**: If the battery is no longer holding a charge well, it might be time for an upgrade.

5. **Compatibility**: Are you missing out on features or updates due to outdated hardware?

If newer software won't run on your device, that's a strong sign to consider upgrading.

If your current device is still performing well and meets your needs, it may be fine to keep using it. However, if you're experiencing limitations, it might be worth looking into an upgrade.

Can the device be engraved for Security purposes?

It is best to consult with the manufacturer or place of purchase to ensure that you do not void the warranty if you want to do this when you purchase the device.

Do we still have to buy textbooks and stationery?

Yes, you still have the option to buy physical textbooks and stationery, as well as eTexts.

While many resources are now available in digital format, some textbooks may not be offered electronically yet. Nazareth has reduced the number of physical textbooks needed by providing eText bundles, but if you prefer, you can often purchase a printed copy of the eTexts for an additional cost. It's a good idea to check the Campion booklist for specific requirements and options for your child

How and when will students get eTexts, eBooks and school-supplied software?

eText and eBook links are emailed by Campion to the student's Nazareth College email address. Students will not have to hand over their devices to anyone to get any materials or software but they will need to agree to some terms and conditions as specified in the '**Digital Learning Devices User Agreement**' in order to use the school Wi-Fi network to download items.

What can students have on their device?

Students can use their devices for both educational and personal purposes, but they must prioritize school-required resources. Here are some key points to keep in mind:

1. **Storage Management**: Students should ensure they have enough space for educational materials. If their device is overloaded with personal content (like videos or games), it may hinder their ability to access required learning resources.

2. **Appropriate Content**: All apps and software installed must be appropriate for a school setting. Students should be mindful of what they add to their devices.
3. **Usage Guidelines**: Students need to use their devices appropriately during school hours and adhere to the rules outlined in the Digital Learning Devices User Agreement.
4. **Agreement Compliance**: Before accessing the school network, students and parents must sign the Digital Learning Devices User Agreement, which details acceptable use and responsibilities.

Encouraging students to manage their devices wisely will help ensure a productive learning environment!

Is there technical support for the devices?
Yes, but the College is only able to provide support primarily for network access and some software / e-text issues.

The College is not a device repairer and not recognized as such by manufacturers for this purpose. You will need to organise your own hardware and warranty repairs through your place of purchase or recommended repairer as listed in your device warranty.

What happens if the device is damaged or lost?
With the device being owned by the student, and not the school, it cannot be covered by the College insurance policy. It needs to be covered by your own contents insurance policy. You should investigate this with your insurer if you wish to insure the device (highly recommended by the College). In the event of a damaged student laptop. The college has a small number of loan laptops that can be issued to student on a day to day basis. These loan devices issued to students on a first come first serve basis and are returned at the end of each school.

Is there an agreement I need to sign before my child can use the device at school?
Yes. As part of the program, parents and students will need to agree to the terms of the '**Digital Learning Devices User Agreement**' before a device will be permitted to access the College network and be brought to classes.

What if we decide we want a higher model device?
Families are welcome to purchase a device that exceeds the minimum requirements if they wish.

Do we have to pay for all software and Apps that the school wants my child to have?
The simple answer is Yes *(via Composite subject levy)*, although the school provides access to the Microsoft Office 365 Suite.

As part of the eLearning package the school will provide students with access to a set of core software and/or Apps and other software/Apps deemed necessary for the students' study purposes. The cost of these is included in the Composite subject levy.

Are there any controls over what my child can and can't use on their laptop?
Yes, there are controls in place regarding what your child can use on their laptop. The College has upgraded its network infrastructure and implemented CyberHound, a Next Generation Firewall, which allows for comprehensive monitoring and filtering of internet activity on student devices. Here are some key points:

1. **Network Monitoring**: CyberHound provides a complete view of internet usage, enabling the College to monitor activity in real time.

2. **Content Filtering**: The firewall controls access to certain websites and applications, ensuring that only appropriate content is available to students.

3. **Misuse Identification**: If a student misuses their device, they can be quickly identified and disconnected from the network.

4. **Parental Notification**: Parents will be informed of any breaches and the actions taken in response, helping to keep everyone in the loop.

These measures are in place to promote a safe and productive learning environment.

Can you open and edit Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents on all devices?
Thanks to the College-provided Office 365 suite, every student has free access to the whole MS Office Suite of apps

The Office 365 suite includes Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Publisher, Outlook and more**, and can be accessed both on the student device and online.** Instructions for installation of the Office 365 suite are distributed to students via SIMON and can be accessed by parents through the 'Nazareth College BYOD-Office 365' file in the PAM Knowledge Banks in the [eLearning folder](#).

What if I can't get Wi-Fi at home?
Most e-texts also come as PDF versions so students will still be able to complete homework, and families will also have the option of purchasing a physical, printed copy of most texts through the booklist (at an additional cost). In addition, the College Resource Centre is open both before and after school for students, and all local libraries also have free Wi-Fi access.

Will students be able to charge their devices at school?
Yes. There are limited charging locations located throughout the school where students can charge their device. Within classroom there are 2 to 4 dedicated points where a student can charge their device. The resource centre also has several points that students can utilise. It is the responsibility of students to bring in their own charging packs as the school cannot provide.

Will the students be able to use their devices in the school yard?
No: the school encourages a balance of work and play. To ensure protection of BYOD devices from damage, they will be required to be secured in lockers during recess and lunch with their combination lock. Students are able to use the device in the Resource Centre at recess/lunch time and before/after school to complete school work.

How will teachers provide feedback?
There are a number of means by which feedback will occur. Teachers will provide most of their feedback via the SIMON Learning Management System using Continuous Reporting, which is accessible to parents via PAM. Teachers can also add notes to work and email it back to students, or directly into a shared document. Criteria sheets can be used and uploaded to SIMON for students. This encourages more *one-to-one,* personalised feedback during the development stages of various pieces of work.

Will my child stop hand-writing?

No! The eLearning device will act as an educational tool to aid in the learning process. Students will still need writing skills as assessment tasks will be balanced to both utilize the creativity of learning technology and to continue to reflect the VCE Examination requirements, which remain handwritten for the foreseeable future.

Can you print from all BYOD devices?

Nazareth College has installed printer-copiers in designated student access areas, Resource Centre, to which students can wirelessly send printing jobs from any device that can access email by sending the print job to print@nazareth.vic.edu.au

At the College, the aim is to try to reduce the number of printouts required by each student over time. As part of the Nazareth College Community, we encourage students to be aware of, and make every effort to minimise the impact on our environment. The eLearning device will assist in achieving this goal by reducing paper usage overall.

Which software or Apps will my child require on their device?

For laptop/ hybrid devices, most applications will come with the Windows or other operating system. Some applications will need to be accessed as web-based applications.

As noted above, the College will provide instructions for students on download and use of the Microsoft Office 365 suite.

For the latest version of this document, please see http://pam.nazareth.vic.edu.au

As a College, we look forward to working with you to continue to improve the student learning experience through enhancing personalised learning and engagement.

Yours faithfully,

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