

BYOD Parents FAQ



Greenmeadows
Intermediate School

Piki ki te rangi - Reach for the sky

Why Blended Learning and BYOD?

Blended Learning is the term used to describe a teaching approach that combines use of on line learning with the more traditional methods. This is a modern approach to learning which we will be shifting towards in the future. Students who bring their own device to school have the advantage of full time access to this tool to support their learning. They are also able to set their device up to their own specifications in a way that best suits their learning. Blended Learning has many benefits, including:

- enabling students to take increasing responsibility for their own learning
- empowering students to learn at a pace and in a way which best suits them
- supports students to work out what tool will best help with their learning.
- enabling teachers to more easily implement personalised learning
- prepares students for a future where they are likely to be working in an environment with increasing amounts of technology which use cloud based tools.

What is Google Apps for Education (GAFE)?

This is the platform students will be using in the future to do much of their work. The Google Apps for Education suite of apps include email, calendar, blogs, documents, presentations and website creation as well as Google Drive, which is a way of organising all the the work students do on these apps. The use of these apps is free and can be used in "the cloud" - which enable students to work cooperatively on online tasks in real time.

Google Apps for Education



Gmail



Calendar



Drive



Docs



Slides



Sites



Sheets



Youtube



Chromebooks



Blogger



Classroom

What is Hapara Dashboard?

Hapara Dashboard gives teachers the ability to see their entire class of work in the same way they would see a class set of exercise books. Teachers have Hapara Dashboard on their computers and use this to access each students' Google Drive; it makes it easy for them to manage the setting of tasks, marking of work and provision of feedback.

The screenshot displays the Hapara Dashboard interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'DASHBOARD', 'GMAIL', 'SHARING', 'INTERACT', 'WORKSPACE', and 'CLASS INFO'. Below this, a grid of student profiles is shown, each with a list of their work items. The students listed include Anokeen Toma, Antony Chester, Aria Aria, Cassidy-Rae Caudwell, Chelsea Tang, Daniel Aviga, Elvis Long, Emily Oulds, Gunveer Singh-Sangha, laeli KAA PILITATI, John-Dean Downing, Jordan Tulloch, Joseph Gadsdon, Joshua Gudgin, Kewan Lew, Koby-Ray Jones-Heaslip, Laichen Samupo, Levi Chapman, Lyric NGATAI, and Mitchell Profner. Each student's profile shows a list of documents with their titles and modification dates.

How long will my child spend on their device?

At Greenmeadows, we are aiming to establish classroom cultures where “blended learning” is encouraged and actively fostered. This means that students will sometimes learn within an online environment, and at other times through more traditional methods. Over time, it is hoped that students will develop the ability to choose for themselves the best “tool” to complete the particular task they are engaging with at any particular time.

Will the use of these devices in the classroom distract my child from what they are supposed to be learning?

Chromebooks at school will only be able to be used for educational purposes. During the 2015 trial, it was found that initially some students did allow themselves to become distracted from the purpose of their task however as time went on, the novelty wore off and they settled to use them consistently in a purposeful way which enhanced their learning and achievement. Expectations for use of the devices will be set up at the start of the year, in the same way we set out expectations for behaviour and presentation of student books.

How is access to potentially harmful material limited at school?

The school has filtering software that will block students from visiting sites with potentially harmful material. Teachers are also able to monitor students emails and correspondence through Hapara Teacher Dashboard. The Cybersafety Agreement that students and parents sign have very clear guidelines for what to do if and when an issue occurs.

What procedures will be in place to keep devices safe at school?

Students will ultimately be responsible for the care of their own device; this is a habit that it is beneficial for them to establish before they begin high school. Teachers will establish routines and procedures which will support the safe care of devices in the classroom but the overall responsibility for following them will lie with the student. There will be a place for devices to be locked away when not in use.

What about students who do not have a device to bring to school?

There will still be plenty of school owned devices for students to use in the same way these have always been provided. Students who bring their own Chromebook/laptop will still have access to the other technology the school owns such as iPads and laptops. The Board of Trustees will continue to purchase IT equipment to supplement the BYOD devices bought in by students.

Where should I purchase my device from?

You are able to purchase your Chromebook from whichever company you choose. The only stipulation is that it must meet the minimum requirements as outlined in the PB Tech flyer. PB Tech has provided us with a special “deal” for our school which parents may choose to take advantage of. We would strongly recommend that parents also purchase accidental damage and theft insurance.

What if I decide not to purchase a device now?

Devices can be purchased at anytime of year - or not at all. A “blended learning” approach will still be taken and students without their own device will not be disadvantaged. If you feel like you need more information about BYOD or the Chromebook before you purchase, please get in touch with your classroom teacher or someone on the school leadership team.

