

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) 2025



Y9-13 students are strongly encouraged to bring a fully charged laptop **every day** to school and will use them as a part of a hybrid learning approach. AGHS uses a blend of traditional approaches as well as using digital technologies to support or facilitate learning. We aim to grow capable digital creators through our learning programmes. When a device is owned by the student and goes home with them every day, it allows for anywhere, anytime learning. We use Microsoft Office (O365) which allows students to save their work to the 'cloud' so it cannot be lost and can be accessed from home, or any other computer, with internet access. This provides an opportunity for increased collaboration between students, and further opportunities and new methods for teachers to provide feedback to students. It also provides occasions to communicate and share learning in a way that will prepare students for the future, including NCEA digital examinations.

AGHS Recommended devices for BYOD 2025

There are many appropriate devices, and the school does not require a particular device. Instead, we have minimum specifications. Please note **Chromebooks and Everis laptops do not meet our specs.** Our minimum specs (listed below) can be taken to local retailers like PB Tech, Cyclone, Noel Leeming or Harvey Norman etc. to assist with correct device choice. Parents can buy devices from any retailer, but please consider the after sales service and arrangements for when a device needs repair when choosing.

Minimum specification for devices:

- Battery life: 6 - 8 hours. Battery life will lessen over time. Ensure devices are fully charged at home before the school day
- Keyboard
- Screen size of 13 inches is optimal
- Light enough to be carried around during the day
- Protective sleeve or bag
- 5GHz Wireless capability
- USB port
- Built in camera and sound recording
- RAM – 8GB is optimal
- 128GB SSD drive at least to ensure sufficient space for software. Hard Drive should be at least 320GB.
- Avoid AMD Desktop CPUs, we recommend Intel Desktop CPUs for efficient processing time
- Microsoft Office license – **provided free by AGHS** while at school
- Audio/HDMI output
- Insurance (AGHS is not responsible for damage or loss of the device)

Along with these we strongly recommend:

- Preferable OS for Windows – Windows 11
- Virus protection – e.g. Microsoft Security Essentials, Windows Defender etc.
- Malware protection, e.g. Malware Bytes etc.
- Bluetooth capability

Retailer BYOD Portals:

- PB Tech <https://www.pbtech.co.nz/education/byod> Select Avonside Girls' High School to see range
- Cyclone Computers <https://www.cyclone.co.nz/markets/schools/#byod> Select Avonside Girls' High School and use password: aghbyod

Do I have to purchase a new device?

No, if you have a device already that meets our minimum specs then it will be fine – see the minimum specifications above. Note that Chromebooks and Everis laptops do not meet our requirements.

What about families who are unable to access a personal device?

Loan devices are available for term-long loan from our Library. These are issued on a case-by-case basis.

We also have a limited number of daily loans available. Students can pick these up before school or at interval and return them at the end of the school day. These are issued on a first in, first served basis.

Any queries, please direct them to: lmcdowell@avonside.school.nz