



Gladstone Park Secondary College

BYOD & Online Safety Guide for Parents and Carers



BYOD at GPSC

Gladstone Park recognises the educational importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). We value its role in improving student learning outcomes and enabling young people to engage and work in a complex world that relies on ICT.

To ensure all students utilise technology across a range of subjects, the school has implemented a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program.

The implementation will be staggered over several years:

- 2024: Years 7, 10, 11 & 12
- 2025: Years 7, 8, 10, 11 & 12
- 2026: Whole School

Students at Gladstone Park Secondary College are expected to bring their own computing device to school every day. The school makes recommendations as to the model of device students and families may choose to bring. Students and families can decide to bring a device of their own choosing that meets our Minimum Requirements for BYOD devices.

BYOD Rationale

- To enable all students to develop and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, practices and attitudes necessary to be engaged, robust digital citizens capable of shaping our future.
- To enable all students to have access to technology to support and enhance their learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.
- To ensure a range of options are provided that allow access to the program for all students.
- To provide ready access to a large variety of digital learning applications used across the school such as:
 - Microsoft Office 365 (a range of applications including Word, Excel, Teams, PowerPoint and Outlook for student and staff access to Gladstone Park Secondary College email).
 - Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator and more).
 - Compass Education (Student Management Tool).
 - ClickView (Access to several thousand videos, allowing teachers and students to access videos quickly, anywhere, anytime).

BYOD Options

There are two options available for students. Both options allow the College to:

- effectively connect the student's computer to the College wireless network.
- provide the appropriate supports for students to support their learning (e.g. software, printing, WiFi).
- coordinate onsite support if technical issues arise (this is only for devices purchased through the College approved BYOD portal).

Option 1 – Purchase a device through the College approved BYOD portal.

(<https://gladstoneparksc.orderportal.com.au/>)

- On site repairs
- Option of warranty, layby or finance
- More expensive than purchasing direct from suppliers

Option 2 – Bringing a device that meets the school's minimum requirements.

- School cannot provide on-site repairs or warranty, see supplier
- Could use a device you currently own or purchase a device that meets the minimum requirements

College Minimum Requirements for BYOD Devices

If you choose to bring your own device (option 2), the following technical requirements are needed to ensure the devices can connect to the College network; can function with the digital technologies used by the College; and provide access to all learning opportunities.

- Devices must have a minimum screen size of 11.3"
- Devices must operate with either Windows 10, Windows 11 or MacOSX (latest version)
- Have an advertised battery life of at least 8 hours
- Built-in camera
- Adequate internal storage capacity – 128Gb Minimum
- Adequate memory capacity – 8GB Minimum
- Identification of student details clearly labelled on the device for all students carrying their BYOD to school

NB: At this time the College does not support Google Chromebooks, Android tablets, iPads etc.

By ensuring the following requirements are met we will ensure that devices have adequate connectivity to connect to the college network and also ensure that students will have an adequate level of functionality to take full advantage of the current and emerging learning opportunities ICT can offer.

Please note that our school does not have insurance to cover accidental damage to students' devices, and parents/carers are encouraged to consider obtaining their own insurance for their child's device.

Gladstone Park Secondary College has in place arrangements to support families who may be experiencing long or short-term hardship to access devices for schoolwork.

Students, parents and carers who would like more information or assistance regarding our BYOD program are encouraged to contact the College on (03) 9933 0500.

STUDENT BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

When using digital technologies, students are expected to behave in a way that is consistent with Gladstone Park Secondary College's Statement of Values, and *Digital Device Usage Agreement*.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community (including cyberbullying, using digital technologies to harass, threaten or intimidate, or viewing/posting/sharing of inappropriate or unlawful content), Gladstone Park Secondary College will institute a staged response, consistent with our student engagement and behaviour policies.

Breaches of this policy by students can result in a number of consequences which will depend on the severity of the breach and the context of the situation. This includes:

- Removal of permission to use a device
- Removal of network access privileges

- Removal of email privileges
- Removal of internet access privileges
- Removal of printing privileges
- Other consequences as outlined in the school's Student Wellbeing and Engagement and Bullying Prevention policies.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if a student requires technical support?

The school provides IT support for students when the nature of the support involves connectivity with the school's networks. All other technical support, including hardware support, is the responsibility of the student and their family.

Will I need to purchase additional software or applications?

Students will not be expected to purchase software or applications for learning, unless specified on the booklist. Students and teachers may respond to learning needs through technological features.

Is a student's device covered by departmental insurance?

Student devices are not covered by school or departmental insurance. Parents/carers are encouraged to refer to their home and content policies or separate insurance and warranty.

How will teachers monitor safe technology practices?

The school will draw upon Student Behavioural Expectations listed above to respond to misuse of technology. Students using technology in the classroom are explicitly taught and expected to practice safe technology practices.

Will students use their devices to read all texts?

The delivery and mode of learning digitally is based on subject discretion. Students will be expected to handwrite throughout the learning process and use their devices for other learning experiences. Students are still expected to maintain a physical class workbook for all subject areas.

Will students have access to social media at school?

Students are not expected to access social media at school. Teachers will monitor and assess device use and adhere to the school's current Mobile

Phone and Social Media Use Policies. Students are provided with many opportunities to learn about cyber-safety, healthy social media use and screen time and the methods of reporting misuse of technology.

Are there devices available at school for students?

Students can use the loan procedures through the IT Support Team on a day-to-day basis when exceptional circumstances prevent them from accessing their own device. The school also has several computer rooms for specific subject areas with class-sets of desktop computers.

What if my family cannot afford a device?

Gladstone Park Secondary College has in place arrangements to support families who may be experiencing long or short-term hardship to access devices for schoolwork.



Online Safety Guide

Gladstone Park Secondary College

Online Safety Guide – Parents and Carers

As parents, you play a key role in keeping your children safe online. This guide covers some important online safety issues and provides practical tips on what to do when things go wrong.

Cyberbullying

What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is when someone uses technology to bully others, causing harm socially, emotionally, or even physically.

Signs of Cyberbullying:

- Your child is upset after being online
- Changes in personality (e.g., becoming sad, angry, or anxious)
- Avoiding school or social activities
- A decline in schoolwork or physical health

What to Do:

- Talk to your child about cyberbullying and let them know you're there to support them.
- Collect evidence (e.g., screenshots).
- Block and report the bully.
- If serious, report it to eSafety for help.



Time Online

How Much Is Too Much?

There's no magic number for screen time. Instead, focus on what your child is doing online and how it impacts their health, schoolwork, and social life.

Signs of Too Much Screen Time:

- Loss of interest in activities like meeting friends or playing sports
- Decline in schoolwork
- Sleep issues, headaches, or tiredness

Managing Screen Time:

- Encourage balance by sharing screen time with your child and being involved in their online activities.
- Create a family plan to manage screen time and offline activities.
- Use parental controls if needed but be open with your child about why you're using them.

Social Media Use

Social media helps kids stay connected, but it also comes with privacy risks and cyberbullying.

Tips for Safe Social Media Use

- **Set Privacy Settings:** Ensure accounts are private and review them regularly.
- **Monitor Friends:** Only connect with people they know in real life.
- **Teach Online Etiquette:** Encourage respectful behaviour online.
- **Limit Screen Time:** Balance social media use with offline activities.
- **Discuss Digital Footprint:** Remind them that online posts can have long-term effects.

What to Do If Problems Arise:

- **Unwanted Contact or Cyberbullying:** Teach your child to block and report anyone making them uncomfortable. Save evidence if needed.
- **Oversharing:** Encourage caution when sharing personal info.
- **Staying involved and talking regularly about social media will help keep your child safe.**

Online Gaming

Benefits and Risks:

- Games can help improve coordination, problem-solving, and social skills.
- Risks include spending too much time gaming, bullying, grooming, gambling-like elements, and in-game spending.

How to Keep Your Child Safe:

- Keep the console or computer in an open area and use parental controls.
- Teach your child to protect their personal information and avoid clicking on suspicious links.
- Set limits on game time and talk to your child about who they're playing with.

Unwanted Contact

What Is Unwanted Contact?

Unwanted contact is any online interaction that makes your child uncomfortable or puts them in risky situations. This can come from strangers or even people they know.

How to Protect Your Child:

- Encourage them to make their accounts private and delete unknown contacts.
- Teach them to report and block any unwanted contact.
- Stay involved in their online activities and build an open, trusting relationship.

What to Do If Something Goes Wrong:

- Stay calm, listen to your child, and don't judge.
- Report abuse or grooming to local authorities or Crimestoppers if necessary.
- Get professional support if needed.

Help and Resources

If your child needs help or you're worried about their online safety, reach out to one of these resources:

Gladstone Park Secondary College (ask for the coordinators of your child's year level): 99330500

Kids Helpline (24/7 counselling for ages 5-25): 1800 55 1800

eHeadspace (support for ages 12-25): 1800 650 890

For more detailed advice and support, visit www.esafety.gov.au/parents