



Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy

For 4th and 6th Form new entrants September 2019



What is our Digital Learning philosophy?

At Shrewsbury we want to make sure that our pupils have the digital skills required to thrive at school and thereafter in higher education and the world of work, just in the same way as we would want to prepare them academically, physically and emotionally. There is no doubt that being digitally literate is crucial for today's school leavers and this is only going to become more the case over the years to come. At Shrewsbury we believe in a blended learning approach. This means that the use of technology is integrated as part of normal lessons by teachers as they see fit and is just one of a range of approaches we take to teaching and learning.

In order to facilitate this in the classroom Shrewsbury operates a 1:1 policy meaning that each pupil needs to have their own device to access resources during the school day and beyond.

What device do pupils need?

We recognise that our pupils prefer different formats and makes of devices, and that these devices are also an important part of pupils' lives beyond school. So, whilst we do not specify a particular brand or model that pupils must use, we do specify the minimum features of the devices that make them suitable for learning activities both within and beyond the classroom. The devices also need to be safe and convenient to use on the School premises and transportable. Whilst it is not expected that the devices will be required in every lesson, every day; we anticipate that the use of the device will be essential in Houses and for some lessons.

The device must have the following features and specification:

- ✓ Web access: Any Web-browser
- ✓ Wireless communication: Wi-Fi
- ✓ Weight: less than 2.5Kg
- ✓ Battery life: a minimum of 6 hours
- ✓ Software/apps: must support the use of Microsoft Office 365
- ✓ A physical Screen size: No bigger than 15" x 11" no smaller than 9" x 7.5"
- ✓ Keyboard: On-screen keyboards are not sufficient. Many Tablet devices come with a physical keyboard and can be used with or without.

Whilst an iPad might be a useful additional tool it is not suitable as a sole device even with an external keyboard.

NOTE: Our 3rd Form entrants in 2019 will be starting a new digital skills curriculum and they will also have an updated BYOD policy that will standardise the platform and type of device. The devices we will be strongly recommending to them will be Microsoft Surface devices. As 4th and 6th entrants you are not required to have one of these; however, we view them as excellent devices for use in the classroom and are worth considering if you're purchasing a new device. The hybrid tablet/laptop form factor and the digital stylus which gives the ability to effectively combine hand-written notes, diagrams and mathematical notation with typed text is particularly advantageous for pupils' learning.

Example specifications

Entry Level £250 - £400

Acer Travelmate Spin B1. Approximately £250 online and various high street stores. This is a minimum device and whilst perfectly acceptable is a compromise in terms of functionality versus budget.



A basic Windows laptop with an expected life of 3-4 years. Minimum of i3 processor, 4Gb or Ram and a 500Gb hard disk. HP produce a model that retails at around £299. Available at Argos, Currys and online



Mid Range £400 - £900

Lenovo Yoga 530 or Acer Switch 3 – Convertible laptops from around £430. All available online or via various high street retailers.



Microsoft Surface Go – 8GB 128GB around £650 but relatively small screen size.



Laptop with i5 or i7 processor, 8GB of Ram and 1Tb (or SSD) hard disk. Expect to pay £500-700. Brands such as Dell and HP do good options.

Top Specification £900 - £1300

Microsoft Surface Pro 6 - You can usually get a 10% discount from the Microsoft Store for parents/students.



Apple Mac Book Pro or Mac Book Air. Windows ultra-books. Top spec laptops.



Additional considerations

It is worth considering a 3 year extended warranty and/or accidental damage protection. A protective sleeve or case would be a sensible additional purchase.

Household insurance may provide some protection but please check your policy. While the main school insurance does not cover pupils' personal belongings, parents can elect to purchase Marsh's pupils' personal effects insurance via the school, or alternatively from other insurance providers.

The School is able to assist with a range of basic repairs but laptops and tablets are now considered by manufacturers to be 'disposable items' and are increasingly difficult to repair from a practical and economical perspective.

Windows 10 devices will come with free antivirus software when the device is purchased. **The School will supply Office 365 software free of charge for both Windows and Apple devices.** There is no requirement for additional internet security software at Shrewsbury School, so don't be tempted into buying these as 'essential' add-ons.

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