

## Bring Your Own Device Policy

### Rationale

#### Bring Your Own Device (B.Y.O.D) Policy

In our endeavor to ensure our students use technology to support their learning and skill development and to promote critical thinking, we support a 'bring your own device' policy in our schools.

Using technology encourages students to learn collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking in a variety of ways throughout the school day. In order to achieve this, we want to ensure that every pupil can be connected to the school's electronic resources throughout the school day, within the school and beyond.

We will provide some technology devices; STEM equipment and interactive boards and projectors. Students need to bring their own devices to support learning in school. This is a mandatory requirement for all students at Diyar to ensure they develop the skills in technology needed to embrace the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills requirements.

### Purpose

This policy outlines the acceptable use of electronic devices within school to maintain a safe and secure education environment with the goal of preparing students for the future, improving learning, and fostering digital citizenship.

An important component of our B.Y.O.D policy, will be education about appropriate online behaviors. We will review cyber-safety rules with students frequently throughout the course of the school year and will offer reminders and reinforcement about safe online behaviors. In addition to the rules outlined in these guidelines, students will be expected to comply with all class and school rules while using personal devices. The use of technology is a privilege.

When abused, privileges will be removed.

### Allowed Devices

Electronic Devices shall include all computing devices that can take photographs; record audio or video data; store transmit or receive messages or images; or provide a wireless connection to the Internet. Examples of these devices include, but shall not be limited to desktops, laptops, tablets, e-readers, as well as any technology with similar capabilities. **Mobile phones and devices with SIM cards/ eSIMS are restricted.**

'Digital Citizenship' is the norm of responsible behavior related to the appropriate use of technology. It encompasses digital literacy, ethics, etiquette, and online safety.

**Authorized Use of Electronic Devices:**

Electronic devices brought to school shall be restricted to educational and administrative purposes in approved locations and times under the supervision of school personnel.

**Authorized users shall:**

‘User’ is any individual granted authorization to use electronic devices. Users may include students, parents, staff, volunteers, visitors, contractors, or individuals employed by service providers.

- Use electronic devices in accordance with the expectations set forth in the school Code of Conduct and Internet Acceptable Use policy;
- Comply with guidelines set by school personnel for the use of electronic devices while on school property or while engaged in a school-sponsored activity;
- Take photographs and audio/video recordings only with a person's consent and when authorized by school personnel for educational purposes;
- Access the school network using approved infrastructure only.

**Device Types:**

Currently we do not specify a brand or model that pupils might use but we are moving towards providing parents with a cost effective solution to be purchased via a technology partner. Parents who opt to purchase through the ‘partnership’ scheme will not need to worry about the specification. Those who choose to purchase their own device, outside of the scheme, will need to ensure the exact specifications are achieved in order to provide their child with a worthwhile learning tool. The following list provides the minimum features for devices to make them suitable for learning activities, in and beyond the classroom:

**Guideline for own devices - suggested minimum requirement:**

- Mobile Internet Access: Wi-Fi and any Web-browser
  - Manageable Weight: less than 7lbs/3.2Kg
  - Fairly long battery life: 6 hours plus
  - Minimal software/apps: only essential security software
  - Appropriate Screen size for mobile work:
  - Smaller than 15" x 11"
  - Bigger than 9" x 7.5"
  - A suitable physical keyboard: On-screen keyboards are not enough. Keyboards included in soft tablet covers, are usually not enough.
- Software / Apps:
- A web-browser: All online devices already include a web browser like Microsoft Edge, Safari, Internet Explorer or Google Chrome. It is always good to have a second browser.
  - MS Office

**Responsibilities;****Responsible for any repairs or updating:**

Although the school IT team will be in a position to provide support regarding connectivity with personal devices for both students and teachers, parents or their children are responsible for ensuring that their children's own devices are up to date with the latest software, and they are repaired in case of any damage.

The school may not be able to provide any technical support for updating or repairing personal devices.

**Responsible for damage, loss, or theft:**

Parents should specify to their children the responsibility they have in relation to their own devices in the school. The school has no responsibility for lost or stolen devices and will not be responsible in case of loss or damage unless the school is at fault for said loss or damage.

**All Users are responsible for:**

- Registering their electronic device with the school IT Team and submitting a signed Use of Electronic Devices Agreement prior to connecting to the school network;
- Ensuring electronic devices are used in accordance with school policies and procedures;
- Caring, maintaining, securing, and storing their own electronic devices;
- Preserving the privacy of accounts, login names, passwords, and/or lock codes to maintain the security of electronic devices and data;
- Maintaining safe and productive learning environments when using electronic devices;
- Practicing digital citizenship.

**All Administrators are responsible for:**

- Informing users of school policy;
- Establishing and monitoring digital citizenship through the school Code of Conduct and Internet Acceptable Use policy;
- Responding effectively to disciplinary issues resulting from inappropriate electronic device usage;
- Communicating appropriately with school personnel, parents, and students if school policy is violated from electronic device usage;
- Providing information to users explaining how to connect electronic devices to the school network.

**Teachers are responsible for:**

- Creating equitable learning opportunities that include electronic devices for

education purposes when relevant to curriculum and instruction;

- Determining when students can use school or personal electronic devices for education purposes;
- Supervising student use of electronic devices;
- Responding effectively to disciplinary issues from inappropriate electronic device usage;
- Communicating appropriately with administrators, parents, and students if school policy is violated from electronic device usage.

Students are responsible for:

- Using electronic devices for educational purposes in approved locations under the supervision of school personnel only.

### **Students are responsible for:**

- Implementing virus and malware scanning on their electronic devices; please note that partnership scheme devices will include antivirus.
- Reporting any inappropriate electronic device usage to a teacher or administrator immediately;
- Ensuring their electronic devices are charged prior to bringing them to school;
- Continuing to learn using an alternative method if an electronic device malfunctions.

### **Parents are responsible for:**

- Helping their children take all reasonable steps to care, maintain, secure, store, and transport their electronic device;
- Helping their children preserve the privacy of accounts, login names, passwords, and/or lock codes;
- Identifying the electronic device by labeling it, recording details such as make, model, and serial number, and/or installing tracking software;
- Procuring hazard or theft insurance for an electronic device;
- Encouraging their children to follow school policy and practice digital citizenship;
- Contacting the school office to communicate with their child during the school day, instead of using text messages, emails, phone calls, or other digital means that have no curriculum-related/education purpose;
- Assuming all responsibility for their child's unauthorized use of non-school Internet connections such as a 3G/4G cellular phone network.

### **Unauthorized Use of Electronic Devices**

Prohibited uses of electronic devices include, but are not limited to:

- Areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as change rooms or restrooms;
- Circumventing school's approved network infrastructure to access Internet connections using an external wireless provider;

- Downloading files that are unrelated to educational activities;
- Engaging in non-educational activities such as playing games, watching videos, using social media, listening to music, texting, or taking personal calls;
- Cheating on assignments or tests;
- Accessing information that is confidential;
- Using photographs and audio/video recordings for a purpose unrelated to the school assignment;
- Obtaining unauthorized access and using it to alter, destroy, or removing data;
- Engaging in cyberbullying which involves using technology to harass, threaten, embarrass, or target another person;
- Infecting a device with a virus or other program designed to alter, damage, or destroy;
- Committing a crime under federal, provincial, and/or municipal statutes;
- Infringing upon copyright laws or plagiarizing protected information; misusing network resources for commercial or political party purposes.

Mobile phones are not allowed in school. It is forbidden for students to use any mobile phone or similar device in school.

#### **Consequences: Remedial and Disciplinary Action:**

- Individuals who do not comply with this Policy will be subject to appropriate consequences consistent with the school Code of Conduct and Internet Acceptable Use Policy.
- Consequences may include, but are not limited to, the following, either singularly or in combination depending on the individual circumstances:
  - a. Temporary confiscation of the device;
  - b. A search of device contents to locate evidence of misuse;
  - c. Limitations, suspension, and/or revocation of access privileges to personal and school technology resources;
  - d. Disciplinary measures, up to and including dismissal; eg. Legal action and prosecution by relevant authorities.

#### **Liability:**

- Users are solely responsible for the care and use of electronic devices they choose to bring to school. Users bringing these devices to school do so at their own risk.
- The school and school personnel shall not be liable for the loss, damage, misuse, or theft of any student-owned electronic device: possessed/used during the school day; in/on school buildings, property, vehicles, or contracted vehicles; during transport to/from school; while attending school-sponsored activities.
- The school and school personnel shall not be responsible for any negative consequences to electronic devices caused by running specific software or by accessing the school network.

Technical Support:

DIYAR EDUCATION LLC



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- School personnel shall not provide technical support, troubleshooting, or repair for user-owned electronic devices. In the case of partnership devices, the school IT team will provide technical support related to approved school software and programs.

Please note that the school will provide a stamp for corporate educational equipment schemes but cannot confirm that devices are compulsory.

Reviewed June 2023

Next Review Date: June 2024