



Have Your Own Device: WGGGS Guidance

In September, we will allow students to bring a device into school to support them with their work. This will need to be a laptop or tablet. We will not be changing our rules on mobile phones.

We do not require your daughter to have a specific device. We recognise that many students already have a suitable device; we are not asking you to discard this in favour of a particular brand or device. Some people prefer Apple (iOS or macOS), some prefer Google (Android or Chrome OS) and others Microsoft (Windows), so we have made sure that we can accommodate each of these and be truly cross-platform.

We are not recommending a particular device as we recognise that every family's context is different. Prices can vary greatly depending on available deals or promotions, the brand of the device, the screen size and the specification of the device.

For your daughter to be able to use her device successfully at school, however, it needs to meet a number of requirements:

- Tablets should be able to use the Apple Store, Google Play or the Microsoft Store. This is so that students can download the software they will need for working in school.
- Laptops should use macOS, Chrome OS or Windows.
- The device must be able to connect to Wifi, as students will connect to the school Wifi network.
- **The device must not be able to use 3G, 4G or 5G, or have the 3G, 4G or 5G disabled.** This will ensure the internet and telephone networks are only accessible through the school network.
- The device should be able to run the latest versions of Microsoft Office apps. Please note that the Microsoft Office apps are only supported on recent OS versions (i.e. on the two most recent versions of iOS and the last four major versions of Android.)
- The device should have a battery life that will allow it to be used during the school day without charging.

We would also recommend that the device has a screen size of 10-14 inches

Please be aware that some very cheap devices will have a low screen quality, poor touch response, be unable to hold a battery charge for very long and/or unable to connect to the school's wireless network.

In September, we will give the students clear instructions about how to keep their devices safe during the day. Looking after devices will be the responsibility of the students. They will not be covered by the school's insurance, and we will not be able to use staff time dealing with incidents involving lost or broken devices. We recommend that you explore obtaining insurance for your daughter's device.



We know that, for some families, buying a device may be very difficult. We have a very limited number of school devices which we can make available to students in genuine need. If you would like to request a school device for your daughter, please contact Mr Cowling in confidence (s.cowling@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk)