INABURRA **FAITH**
**KNOWLEDGE**
**LOVE**

# INABURRA SCHOOL - BYOT GUIDELINES 2025
## BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY

**INABURRA SCHOOL**

# BYOT ADVICE FOR 2025

**Students in cohorts not included in the Managed Device Program rollout across Years 5 –12 are required to bring their own device to school each day.**

All students in Years 6, 8, 9 , 10 , 11 and 12 in 2025 are required to bring their own mobile computing devices to school to use as a tool to advance their learning. We believe that students are well served by using their technology at school for learning.

One of the most common questions we have been asked since the BYOT program was implemented back in 2013 is "What device should my child bring?". Our deliberate policy has been to avoid mandating any one device or platform for the BYOT program; we believe that the connected digital age will require young people to develop flexibility and adaptability.

Having said that we do not mandate or require a particular device, our experience has refined our thinking about the sorts of technology that are most likely to be helpful for the students. This booklet contains information and recommendations that may be of assistance to families in choosing digital technology for their child to bring to school at Inaburra. Given the incredible pace of change that the world is experiencing with digital and mobile technology, we will endeavour to update this booklet on an annual basis; as some of the devices mentioned in this edition were not on the market 12 months ago.

Parents and students should select the equipment that best suits the student's learning needs eg: if a student has a particular interest in using their device for creative endeavours.

The weight of the device is crucial. We have found that many of the students who are carrying heavy laptops to school struggle bringing them everyday. In most cases a 13-inch screen is sufficient for work at school, saving on weight compared to the bigger models.

It is better to have a physical keyboard as the students fluency in typing is increased. It is possible to get keyboard attachments for tablet computers. While it does not fit into the regular curriculum of the school, students are encouraged to improve their typing.

One low cost alternative to tablets is the Google Chromebook. It is a laptop with an 11-inch screen that runs the Chrome OS for $250-$700. The device is similar to Android tablets, but includes a full size keyboard. Apps can be obtained from the Chrome store. The Chromebook has sufficient power for a large number of tasks at school, however does struggle with some of the more creative tasks such as video editing.
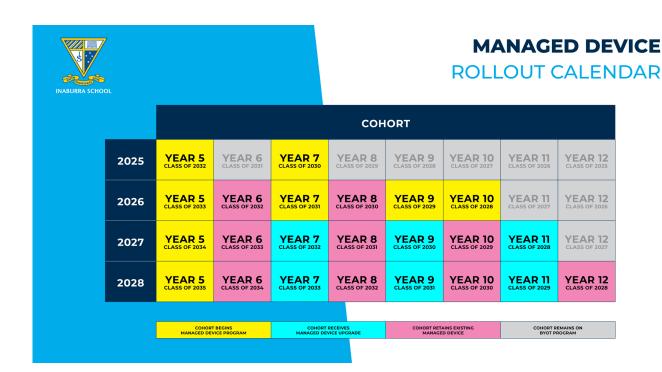
Google Suite for Education is a core tool for teaching. G Suite enables teachers to keep regular checks on student's progress in their work without the need to collect their workbooks.  All students will have a Google Drive account that can be accessed through the Internet, which provides cloud storage for all their schoolwork.

In a lot of ways the devices that students use at School are just as important as the paper and books they use.  All of the devices listed are a good choice for a BYOT device.

The BYOT program will eventually be replaced by the Managed Device program so that by 2028 all students will be provided with a Managed Device rather than bringing their own. Refer to the calendar below for the phased rollout of Managed Devices

If you have questions please feel free to get in touch with us through the following email address:

byotadvice@inaburra.nsw.edu.au

---

**INABURRA SCHOOL**

## MANAGED DEVICE
### ROLLOUT CALENDAR

| | COHORT | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2025** | YEAR 5<br>CLASS OF 2032 | YEAR 6<br>CLASS OF 2031 | YEAR 7<br>CLASS OF 2030 | YEAR 8<br>CLASS OF 2029 | YEAR 9<br>CLASS OF 2028 | YEAR 10<br>CLASS OF 2027 | YEAR 11<br>CLASS OF 2026 | YEAR 12<br>CLASS OF 2025 |
| **2026** | YEAR 5<br>CLASS OF 2033 | YEAR 6<br>CLASS OF 2032 | YEAR 7<br>CLASS OF 2031 | YEAR 8<br>CLASS OF 2030 | YEAR 9<br>CLASS OF 2029 | YEAR 10<br>CLASS OF 2028 | YEAR 11<br>CLASS OF 2027 | YEAR 12<br>CLASS OF 2026 |
| **2027** | YEAR 5<br>CLASS OF 2034 | YEAR 6<br>CLASS OF 2033 | YEAR 7<br>CLASS OF 2032 | YEAR 8<br>CLASS OF 2031 | YEAR 9<br>CLASS OF 2030 | YEAR 10<br>CLASS OF 2029 | YEAR 11<br>CLASS OF 2028 | YEAR 12<br>CLASS OF 2027 |
| **2028** | YEAR 5<br>CLASS OF 2035 | YEAR 6<br>CLASS OF 2034 | YEAR 7<br>CLASS OF 2033 | YEAR 8<br>CLASS OF 2032 | YEAR 9<br>CLASS OF 2031 | YEAR 10<br>CLASS OF 2030 | YEAR 11<br>CLASS OF 2029 | YEAR 12<br>CLASS OF 2028 |

| COHORT BEGINS MANAGED DEVICE PROGRAM | COHORT RECEIVES MANAGED DEVICE UPGRADE | COHORT RETAINS EXISTING MANAGED DEVICE | COHORT REMAINS ON BYOT PROGRAM |
|---|---|---|---|

# POSSIBLE DEVICES

## STYLUS DEVICE (e.g. Microsoft Surface, HP Spectre, iPad/iPad Pro) $750 to $3000

**Strengths**

- The capacity to use a pen rather than type
- Great for taking notes by hand or creative pursuits such as drawing/sketching
- Full laptop operating system in a tablet-sized device (except iPad Pro)

**Weaknesses**

- Expensive
- Keyboards may not suit all students

Devices designed to use a stylus allow students to handwrite notes and comments very easily. Stylus devices designed for Windows will enjoy the compatibility of a full Windows operating system in a tablet-sized device. Be careful of cheaper stylus devices – they can often have very low storage capacity and processor speed. For Microsoft Surface + HP Spectre type devices suggested minimum spec - 8GB RAM, 256 GB Solid State Storage. Devices that have USB-C port and have a stylus are encouraged.

## WINDOWS LAPTOP - $500 to $4000

**Strengths**

- Great compatibility-will run more software compared to other operating systems

**Weaknesses**

- Can be heavy if too cheap

Windows laptops are some of the most popular devices available. Try to avoid buying very cheap machines, as generally they are heavier and have poorer battery life. All new devices now run Windows 10, and generally touch screens make better use of these newer features. Suggested minimum specifications - 8GB RAM, 256 GB Solid State Storage. Devices that have USB-C port and have a stylus are encouraged.

## CHROMEBOOK - $400 to $700

**Strengths**

- Low cost
- Can do most of the key tasks that students need
- Lightweight with a full keyboard

**Weaknesses**

- Limited on the more creative tasks, such as video editing
- Works best when connected to the Internet

This laptop is the ultimate in portability with a full size keyboard. It runs on the Chrome OS, and has access to a large number of apps through the Chrome store. It enables students the efficiency on working in the cloud using G Suite. This device has the advantages of a laptop at the price of a tablet. Suggested minimum specifications - 32GB Storage. Devices that have USB-C port and have a stylus are encouraged.

## MACBOOKS (e.g. MacBook, MacBook Air, MacBook Pro) $1500 to $4000

**Strengths**

- Powerful computer in lightweight and portable shape (MacBook and MacBook Air)
- Compatible with most file types
- High quality device

**Weaknesses**

- No 'cheaper' option
- No touch screen

For those students who prefer the Mac OS and software. MacBook and MacBook Air models maximise portability while maintaining good performance for everyday use. Those who need more power and storage for tasks such as video editing should consider the MacBook Pro. Suggested Minimum Specifications - 8GB RAM, 256 GB Solid State Storage.

## TABLETS (e.g. iPad, Samsung Galaxy or other Android device) $500 to $1200

**Strengths**

- Easy to use
- Portable
- Low cost

**Weaknesses**

- Operating system has limited functionality compared to Windows or Mac OS
- Separate keyboard is recommended, especially for Senior School students

Tablet devices are very portable and low cost devices which usually have good battery life. Many apps are available for these devices at low cost. Their operating systems are easy to use, but have limited functionality compared to a laptop. It can be a challenge creating documents on tablets. Suggested Minimum Specifications - 32GB Storage.

# SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

## WEB BROWSER
- Preferably Google Chrome.

## WORD PROCESSING SOFTWARE
- Microsoft Word is the best choice on a laptop or tablet including iPad, and is available for free to Inaburra students.
- Chromebook users would use the inbuilt Google software.

## PRESENTATION SOFTWARE
- Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard on laptops and tablets, including iPads.
- Apple Keynote is very popular on iPads.
- Google Slides is also an excellent free online tool.

## GENERAL INFORMATION
Tablet devices should have the Google Drive App installed as well as Google Documents, Google Slides and Google Sheets. Other tools/apps may be requested and/or suggested by teachers. Students will normally be given several days notice to install apps.

## MICROSOFT OFFICE and ADOBE SOFTWARE
Through the school, students are able to download a free copy of the latest version of Microsoft Office and Adobe Software (once they commence classes).

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**1. Is my child required to bring digital device to school?**
All students in Years 6, 8, 9 , 10 , 11 and 12 in 2025 are required to bring their own mobile computing devices to school to use as a tool to advance their learning. Please refer to the Managed Device Calendar rollout on page 1 of this Guideline to check when your child's cohort will be eligible to receive a Managed Device.

**2. What sort of technology is suitable?**
We believe that students should use the device with which they are most comfortable and with which learning will be most effective. Recognising the importance of choices, we are not recommending specific brands or models. We have prepared a list of devices in this document, which is also available on the Inaburra website outlining the strengths and weaknesses of various devices for the learning activities in which the students will be engaged.

**4. What about the physical safety of the devices at school?**
As with other equipment, individual students are responsible for their own property at school. Common sense would suggest that students ensure their devices have protective cases or coverings. Parents are advised to make their own insurance arrangements and cover for accidental damage. The School will not take responsibility for accidental damage to student property, nor do our insurance policies cover it. We will continue to refine our practices for the security of devices at school.

**5. How can I protect my child's device against theft?**
It would be sensible to ensure that your child's property is named through engraving or other indelible marking (please clarify that this does not void the warranty before getting your device engraved). Different devices also have different options for locating them when they're missing. For example, any iOS device (iPhone, iPad) has a built-in service called "Find my iPhone/iPad" that can help locate the device on a map if it is enabled before the device is lost. Likewise, software is available for laptops that can enable them to be located when missing.

**6. Won't this make my child's schoolbag heavier?**
We are conscious of the issue of bag weight, particularly for our younger students. We utilise various approaches that help reduce bag weight, including digital textbooks. However, it would be wise to consider weight and size when choosing a device for your child; tablets and thinner laptops are significantly lighter than full-size laptops. We recommend that devices weigh less than 2kg.

**7. Will students' use of the internet be monitored at school?**
All student usage of the school's network and internet connection is filtered. Their complete web history is also logged and able to be tracked. Parents need to be aware that if they provide their child with a device with direct 4G/5G access, the school is unable to filter, log and monitor the student's usage.

**8. Can students recharge their device whilst at school?**
We discourage students from recharging at school; power cords/chargers can be a Work, Health and Safety hazard and they add extra weight to school bags. For this reason, battery life is key in choosing technology. Students will need to cultivate the habit of charging their device overnight.

**9. What policies and structures guide students' use of ICT?**
The protocol is that the students' use of ICT will take place only with a teacher's explicit authorisation. Students should refer to the School's Acceptable Use of ICT Guidelines that outline our expectations of students.

**10. How does the school address the possibility of cyber-bullying and inappropriate online behaviour?**
Inaburra School is strongly opposed to bullying and harassment of any kind. We seek to provide a safe, supportive, and caring environment for all our students. We have developed a comprehensive Home Group program that looks to empower students to be good cyber citizens in the modern world.

**11. My child is studying a subject where specialist software is required, will support still be provided?**
Yes. In classes when specialist software is required (Music, Media, Computing etc), the School provides ICT support.

**13. Won't students just be staring at screens all day?**
No. Firstly, ICT is utilised as a tool that teachers and students use only some of the time to add value to the learning; it is not suitable for every aspect of learning. Secondly, the school maintains our present practice of requiring technology to be switched off and out of sight in the playground at recess and lunch. Face-to-face interaction and physical activity are the priorities during these unstructured times that we are gathered at the school.

**14. My child struggles with organisation as it is; how will they be supported to manage electronic files and documents?**
The School has a Learning Foundations Technology curriculum that helps students to use ICT effectively for their learning. This involves resources and lessons that equip students with a recommended set of practices for the storage and management of technology-related learning, including basics such as managing files and backing-up work. Students are assisted to implement these recommended practices through formal lessons and informal support.

**15. How do we know the students won't just be playing Candy Crush and using Facebook in class?**
The reality is that ICT does provide the potential for multiple distractions. All of us face the challenge of developing self-control in avoiding these distractions; in fact, you could make a case that this is a vital skill for the 21st Century workplace. School and home both have a role to play in helping young people to self-regulate in these areas.

**18. Are we getting rid of pen and paper?**
No. Apart from anything else, the HSC credential still requires students to handwrite and the students will need to maintain and develop this skill with their final examinations in mind. In addition, there are some forms of learning and recording information that are better suited to pen and paper. We anticipate that there will be a place for writing and ICT in schools in the foreseeable future.

Further to this, advancements in stylus technology continue to improve, allowing 'handwriting', albeit on the computer screen, to remain an integral part of learning.

**19. What about storage of work?**
As part of the BYOT initiative, student storage of files is recommended to be primarily cloud hosted. All students are highly encouraged to backup their work.

**20. Is there particular software that my child will need to have on his/her device?**
The students need to be able to connect to the School's wireless network and to access the Internet with a browser. Different teachers will make use of different programs, sites and resources for learning but the vast majority of these will be web-based. The School has prepared a list that outlines basic software needs - see page 3.

**21. How do you address issues that continue to arise in this fluid digital environment?**
The rapidly changing technology landscape presents all sorts of unforeseen challenges. We continue to refine and reformulate many of our practices and policies to maximise learning at Inaburra. We appreciate your partnership in supporting your child in their engagement with technology.

# STUDENT GUIDELINES - APPROPRIATE USE OF ICT

Inaburra students are expected and equipped to be smart, safe and responsible in their use of Information and Communication Technology. They are to be guided by the School's values, in the following ways:

We commend and cultivate FAITH in God, who makes himself known to us in and through his Son, Jesus Christ. Therefore we...

- Utilise ICT in ways that are consistent with Christian behaviour, including honesty, kindness and responsibility.

We pursue KNOWLEDGE, delighting in the gift of learning to live well in God's world. Therefore we...

- Ensure that the use of ICT and mobile devices at school is related to genuine curriculum and education-related learning activities.
- Recognise the authority and responsibility of staff to direct, permit, restrict and authorise the use of ICT at school and act accordingly.

We commit to LOVE, because Christ first loved us. Therefore we...

- Do not use ICT to harass, bully, demean or hurt others.
- Exercise appropriate care for and stewardship of the ICT property and resources of the school and of other people.

We strive for EXCELLENCE in thankful response for all that God has provided. Therefore we...

- Harness our ICT expertise and skills to support and enhance the work of the school, rather than engaging in destructive activities such as hacking, releasing viruses, damaging infrastructure, distributing spam or deleting the work of others.
- Avoid allowing ICT-related distractions to detract from our learning or the learning of others at school.
- Do not plagiarise, ensuring that we properly reference the work of others.

We treasure each INDIVIDUAL, recognising and respecting the image of God in every person. Therefore we...

- Protect the privacy, confidentiality and dignity of individuals by not disclosing, using, distributing or publishing information about individuals in any way that may cause them harm.
- Do not utilise the identity, accounts, passwords or confidential details of other people.

We cherish COMMUNITY, knowing that relationships are at the heart of living and learning. Therefore we...

- Protect our relationships by not accessing, sharing, sending or publishing material that is hurtful, offensive, inappropriate or false.
- Do not use ICT to photograph, video or record people in the school context, or publish or distribute those recordings without the express permission of the supervising teacher.
- Take responsibility for reporting inappropriate usage of ICT in the school community.

**Inaburra exists to be a Christ-centred learning community pursuing excellence in education where every individual is known and loved.**

### FAITH
We commend belief in God who makes
himself known to us in and through his Son, Jesus.

### KNOWLEDGE
We pursue wisdom, delighting in the
gift of learning for the common good.

### LOVE
We show humility, integrity, kindness and
generosity for the good of others.

**INABURRA SCHOOL**