

## Questions and Answers

Q. What are the problems with traditional Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programs?

A. BYOD has often been referred to as Bring Your Own Disaster. This is because schools end up having many different devices using multiple platforms, which makes it difficult for teachers to transform learning through technology. Teachers should be focusing on teaching, rather than dealing with issues that arise from multiple devices and platforms.

Q. What is BYMC?

A. Bring your Managed Chromebook (BYMC) means that schools stipulate that Chromebooks can be used at school. Chromebooks are perfect for schools as they are made for the classroom - the battery will last all day, they are quick to boot up, they are durable and most importantly they are affordable. Once we also take in all the benefits of G Suite for Education, it is easy to see why Chromebooks are now the number one selling device in New Zealand schools.

Q. What does 'Managed' Chromebook mean?

A. A managed Chromebook means that the school manages the device with various settings. For example, schools can ensure only users within their domain can login to the device, thus settings such as safe search and blocked URL's will stay on 100% of the time. This will ensure the device is set up for an optimal learning experience both in and away from school.

Q. How can you ensure my child is safe online when they are at home?

A. When a device is enrolled to a school's domain with a Chrome Education license, that device will act in the same way no matter if the child is at school, home, or a friends house. This is because it is device settings rather than network settings that are being applied. Therefore, safe search settings, various levels of YouTube restrictions and blocked URL's can be applied to the device 100% of the time.

Q. How can you ensure that this will be a tool for learning rather than a toy?

A. Because the device can be locked down to users of the school domain, schools can disable various apps and extensions that may become a distraction from learning. For Chromebooks that can access Android apps through the Google Play store, only school approved apps will be shown. Schools can also block various online games that they deem are not enhancing learning in any way. Parents are investing in the device to help transform learning for their child, therefore, it is important to create an environment that allows this to happen.

Q. What happens if my child loses their device or it gets stolen?

A. When a Chromebook is managed through Chrome Education, any lost or stolen devices can be disabled. When this happens, the device essentially goes blank with a customised message saying which address to return the device to. The Chromebook cannot be reset, so it will stay locked until the device is returned.

Q. Why is the roll out starting with Year 4&5 classes?

A. 1. It's a numbers game. By requesting chromebooks from Year 4/5, half the children in **all** our Middle and Senior classes will have a chromebook. We have some stand alone computers, laptops and Ipads in classrooms that can be used by the other half of students. That way our Year 3-6 classes will all benefit from an increase of chromebooks in 2019. However, we encourage Year 3 and 6 students to join the scheme this year if they want to.

2. We are planning to purchase chrome licenses for chromebooks bought by students and we feel we get better value for money if we pay these for children who will be here longer- However, for 2019 as part of the roll out we are willing to include the Year 6 children (and any year 3 children) in this offer.

Q. Why do children as young as Year 3 need chromebooks?

A. Digital devices are a tool to *enhance* learning. Good learning without still goes on in the classroom. It is a case of using the best resource to teach the child- whether it be a book, pencil, a chromebook, an ipad, a whiteboard, maths equipment etc. Children will not use Chromebooks all the time.

Q. Is it compulsory to purchase a chromebook for my child?

A. The use of the word 'compulsory' was in the initial letter that went home to parents. We accept that this was not a good choice of word- for various reasons. As a result the word compulsory was changed to 'Strongly recommend' The changed letter was linked to the last 3 weeks newsletters.