



## GEMS Winchester School Dubai



# Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy Whole School

**Person Responsible:** Principal/CEO & Vice Principals

**Approved by ELT:** September 2023

**Date of Next Review:** August 2024

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## Rationale and Purpose

GEMS Winchester School Dubai (WSD) uses instructional technology as one way of enhancing our mission to impart knowledge, understanding and skills that our students will need as responsible citizens in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century global community. Furthermore, our students learn collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking in a variety of ways throughout the school day. In an effort to increase access to such knowledge, understanding and skills, WSD will allow personal devices to be brought to school.

The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program, which encourages students to bring their devices on a regular basis to school, has been initiated **only** for students who follow the responsibilities stated in this Policy.

The purpose of this BYOD policy is to ensure that all students use technology at school, home and elsewhere effectively, safely and responsibly.

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## Coverage

The Policy provides guidelines for using digital hardware and software on school and personal computers/devices, on local area networks, wide area networks, wireless networks, the internet and other technological equipment such as printers, servers, Smart TVs, projectors, etc. when students are at school.

The policy also applies to students' use of all such devices outside of school.

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## School Responsibilities

The school is responsible for:

- Providing technological hardware/ software/ network access to promote teaching and learning within the school community
- Maintaining the integrity, operation, and availability of its electronic systems for access and use
- Providing a safe cyber environment for all users through firewalls and Mobile Device Management (MDMs)

The school does not guarantee user privacy or system reliability.

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## User Rights and Responsibilities

It is expected that all users of the network, digital resources will:

- Obey the laws and restrictions of the United Arab Emirates
- Respect other users in the School community, which includes the strict prohibition of cyberbullying and harassment
- Always use your own login account and password and not through any other individual's
- Do not disrupt, delete and tamper with someone else's work that is saved on school devices and network
- Recognise and honour the intellectual property of others

- Comply with legal restrictions regarding plagiarism, the use and citation of information resources and copyright law
- Limit the use of the school's technology resources to the educational vision and mission of the school
- Use non-curriculum relevant materials only in their own time, outside of school and without detriment to their studies
- Help maintain the integrity of the school network and equipment;
- Not tamper or experiment with the school network or equipment, including efforts to bypass the school's Internet filters or proxies or the MDM system
- Make personal devices available for inspection by an administrator or other staff member upon request;
- Use appropriate language in all communications
- Never use or attempt to use another student's assigned hardware, subscriptions, logins, files, or personal information
- Not give out personal information, such as name, address, photo, or other identifying information online, including username and password as this is prohibited
- Not use personal devices or equipment to record (audio/visual) others without their permission, as this is prohibited
- Not modify or copy any protected system files, system folders, or control panel files without prior approval of the School's IT Department
- Not install any software's that will compromise on the safety and security of the system such as VPNs, as this is prohibited
- Use the internet for educational and administrative purposes only. Use of the internet for emails and social networking sites is for only educational needs
- Inform the IT team before installing any software's on the school devices
- Use only licensed software for educational purposes
- Handle devices with care and be responsible for any loss or damage to individual devices
- Report any problems with the School equipment to the IT department

Users are not expected to:

- Store commercial software, music, games or any hidden files and folders on their devices
- Communicate between student and parents during the school time - in case of emergency parents should contact the school
- Store parents' files and folders on their devices
- Play games in school
- Download unlicensed software
- Repair, reconfigure, modify or attach any external devices to existing hardware without the permission of the IT department
- Infringe or violate UAE or international copyright laws or restrictions

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## Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others.

Students will be held accountable for cyberbullying, even if it occurs off-campus during the school year and negatively impacts the academic environment of GEMS Winchester School. GEMS Winchester School has zero tolerance for bullying, including cyberbullying, and will take appropriate action against any member of school community who engages in such behaviour in line with our Behaviour Policy, and/or our Anti-Bullying Policy.

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## Permitted Devices and Mobile Phones

In the Primary School, students are encouraged to use a tablet, pre-loaded with the applications highlighted in the book list shared at the start of each academic year. However, students will not be required to use a tablet every day; teachers will share information about when a device will need to be used at school through the school's home learning systems.

In the Secondary School, students are encouraged to use a device that has a physical keyboard; this is ideally a laptop, but could be a tablet with an attachable keyboard. Given the periods of extended writing that might be required for Controlled Assessment and/or Coursework, a keyboard is a helpful tool for students to have.

Across the school, mobile phones are **not allowed** to be used by any student. Therefore, the following rules apply:

- Phones must not be used for any purpose during the school day
- Any member of staff may confiscate a mobile phone that is being used inappropriately
  - Confiscated mobiles will be returned directly to student at the end of the day; phones are labelled clearly with the student's name and tutor-group, and left for safe keeping with the appropriate member of staff
  - Staff will also issue a Behaviour Point to the student, so repeat offenders can be tracked over time. For repeat offences, parents will be required to collect the mobile phone from the Head of Year rather than the student

GEMS Winchester School Dubai is not responsible for any loss or damage to mobile phones that are brought into school. Furthermore, WSD and its staff reserve the right to take legal action against students who use their phones illegally, for example by taking and/or sharing photographs or making recordings of others without their consent.

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## Non-Compliance with this Policy

It is expected that all users of the school network, technological devices and digital resources follow the guidelines mentioned in this policy at all times and anywhere in the school. Users risk the loss of digital privileges in case it is found that the guidelines are not being followed.

In cases of serious breaches, further action may be taken, in line with the school Behaviour Policy.

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## Lost, Stolen or Damaged Devices

Each user is responsible for his/her own device and should use it responsibly and appropriately. WSD takes no responsibility for stolen, lost, or damaged devices, including lost or corrupted data on those devices. While school employees will help students identify how to keep personal devices secure, students will have the final responsibility for securing their personal devices. Please check with your homeowner's policy regarding coverage of personal electronic devices, as many insurance policies can cover loss or damage.

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