

### Rationale

The NCS 'Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)' Program, like all BYOD programs in an educational setting, inherently imposes a financial cost on students and their families in supplying a device. At the same time, the BYOD Program can only function if all students have access to appropriate technological resources in all of their classes. We want to ensure that all students have access to the same learning outcomes, irrespective of their families' financial means. This Equity Policy will provide a 'safety net' for families when all other options have been exhausted.

### Details

#### Objectives

- To facilitate the bringing of a computing device to school by all students in Years 7 - 12 for use in their education.
- To ensure equity in the BYOD Program and its implementation.
- To ensure all students have access to appropriate technological resources in their classes.
- To provide a framework through which family requests for assistance can be managed consistently.

#### Actions

Nowra Christian School (NCS) will:

- Endeavour to provide personal access to appropriate technological resources to all students operating under the school's 'Bring Your Own Device' Program in keeping with the objectives of that policy.
- Ensure that the BYOD Program's device specification is designed so that a range of devices are suitable and meet the specification.
- Assess applications for assistance in meeting the requirements of the BYOD Program on a case-by-case basis. Due consideration will be given to all the facts of the matter, including:
  - The level of assistance requested
  - The year level of the student
  - The subjects the student undertakes
  - The technology already available to the student at school and at home.
- Consider a range of alternatives for providing device access for students, including:
  - Loan of a laptop or other device for a particular period or class
  - Loan of a laptop or other device for a particular day
  - Recurrent daily loan of a laptop or other device.
- Make a written agreement between the school, student and parent/carer that specifies the arrangements agreed upon or determined for facilitating access to technological resources.
- Provide a protocol for borrowing any devices from the Library and follow up any cases where the loaned device is not returned in accordance with the agreement.

### Students and parents/carers will:

- Consider options for the purchase, lease, or interest-free finance of equipment that meets the device specification.
- If you believe you are unable to provide a device that meets the specification:
  - Make an application in writing to the Head of Secondary, or make an appointment to speak with the Head of Secondary and indicate that you require assistance in addressing the school's BYOD program.
  - The school will liaise with parents/carers, with your child/ren and their teachers to identify the most suitable way to address the issue and ensure that they have appropriate access to the technological resources.
  - You will be asked to make an agreement with the school that confirms the alternative arrangements made for your child/ren's access to technological resources.

## Limitations

The school will not purchase a device to assign to your child nor will the school make a device available for permanent or semi-permanent loan. In the temporary absence of a personal device, the school will consider options including:

- Loan of a laptop or other device for a particular period or class
- Loan of a laptop or other device for a particular day
- Recurrent daily loan of a laptop or other device.

## Related Documents

Cyber Safety Policy

Secondary Discipline Policy

Excellent Digital Citizenship

Excellent Digital Citizenship Contract

BYOD Policy

Acceptable communication (online) Policy (Students)