



British
International School
Riyadh

Senior School (Y7 to Y13) Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) for the 2021/2022 Academic Year

As your child enters BISR next year, a BYOD laptop will be a compulsory requirement for all students. Teachers will prepare teaching material with the assumption that all students will have an appropriate laptop device with them for lessons. The best device for these students is a small powerful portable laptop, with the ability to connect USB storage devices.

Recommended specifications include:

- Processor -we recommend Intel i5 or above (such as i7), avoid intel Celeron processors.
- Memory -At least 8GB of RAM, more is preferred.
- Storage -greater than 128GB sized hard drive, 256GB or above is preferred.
- Long battery life -+6 hours whilst on Wi-Fi **as a minimum**
- Operating System -we will **only** accept **Windows 10 home and professional versions (Windows 10 S is not suitable)** and **Apple Mac** laptops. We will not accept any other versions of Operating systems (see below for more details).
- Hybrid devices with touch screens, such as the Microsoft Surface, have proven popular due to their lightweight design and long battery lives, but they can be quite expensive. Apple MacBooks are also very popular and supported, but they do have a limitation relating to not supporting Microsoft Access, a database application used in Computing lessons.

Our requirements for whichever laptop you choose are as follows:

1. It must come with a small carry case, which will protect it but not take up too much space –a neoprene type case would be suitable.
2. The laptop needs to be insured by the family for loss and/or accidental damage and the student is responsible for keeping it safe whilst in school.
3. The laptop must be running either Windows 10 home or professional, Windows 10 S, which is more secure version of the operating system is not supported, as it does not allow third party applications to be installed, a requirement for BYOD enrolment. We will also accept Apple OSX 10.13 (High Sierra) or later if it is an Apple MacBook. Machines running earlier operating systems, including Windows 7 and 8 will not be allowed to enrol on the BYOD system. We cannot support other operating systems, such as Chrome OS and Linux. Nor can we accept Apple IOS devices such as the iPad Pro and iPad 9.7
4. The device **must** have reputable anti-virus installed on it, the built-in software that comes with Windows and Apple Mac machines is not sufficient. If you do not have this then during the BYOD enrolment process the system will warn the user that their anti-virus protection is not compliant and that they have 7 days to resolve this issue after which their access will be blocked. We do have a limited number of Symantec Anti-Virus client licenses which we can make available to download and install after the device has been enrolled. It should be noted that when your child leaves BISR, the license will be revoked, and you will need to find alternative anti-virus protection.



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5. We do not allow applications such as torrent clients, VPNs and proxy sites to run within the school's networks. Students should not be running this type of software when they are using their BYOD laptops in school, and if they try to do so then we will identify and block them.
6. As part of the BYOD enrolment procedure, The second part of the enrolment process requires a small AirWatch client to be downloaded on to the student laptop. **The user account on the BYOD laptop must therefore have sufficient administrative privileges to be able to install applications on to the device in order to do this.** This client agent will allow them to connect to our MDM system, which in turn, allows us to share resources with the student and apply some basic restrictions whilst the laptop is connected to the school network. Following standard data protection policy, as the device is privately owned, we will not have access to any data held on the laptop and when the student leaves BISR, the device will be unenrolled from our systems.
7. Because of licensing restrictions, students will only be permitted to have one device registered on our BYOD network. They will not therefore be able to connect additional smart phones or tablet devices. If they replace or upgrade their laptop then they should come to the IT department so that we remove their old device and help enrol their new one.
8. As part of the BYOD scheme, the school will provide each child with a subscription to Office 365 whilst they are a member of BISR. This will allow access to a full version of Microsoft Office on up to five devices, including Windows machines, Apple Mac machines, tablets and Smart Phones. Further details on how to download these applications will be made available later on as part of the BYOD set up instructions.
9. The school provides some secure charging stations to "top up" laptops in between lessons, BUT this will be limited and students need to have a laptop where battery life is sufficient for a full day's use and they need to form a routine of charging every night.
10. Whilst in school, students will have access to the internet from their BYOD laptops via our comprehensive web filtering system from Smoothwall. The restrictions applied will be identical to those found on school-owned devices. However, these restrictions will not be applied outside of BISR.
11. We would strongly recommend that you do not install any additional software that restricts which websites your child can access on their BYOD laptop at home. We have encountered a number of problems with this type of program clashing with the school's own systems, making the laptop unusable for lessons. In all cases the only answer was to remove the software.
12. One week before the start of the new term we will send out detailed instructions on how your children can enrol their laptops in the school's systems from home. We would strongly recommend that you try to do this, before the start of the new academic year, so as to avoid delays for your child to get up and running with their BYOD device. There will be a helpdesk email address which you can contact if you do face any problems enrolling.