

Frequently asked questions about BYOD at Croydon High School

How and when do pupils use their devices?

We expect the pupils to use their devices responsibly and sensibly at all times around the school.

Pupils in the younger year groups are not permitted to use their devices at break times and lunchtimes.

As pupils move up through the school we allow them more freedom to use their devices outside lessons, recognising the many interesting and collaborative uses they make of them in their own time.

In lessons, we teach the pupils about responsible use of devices to ensure that everyone remains on task.

Rules include starting the lesson with laptop lids closed, and only using the device when instructed to do so.

How will pupils charge their device at school?

Pupils are expected to arrive at school with a fully charged device.

We have charging facilities for pupils to use. These have code locks and allow girls to leave their device charging in a secure place during lunch, break or a study period.

Pupils are required to store their devices in their lockers when they are not being used or charging (i.e. at break times and lunchtimes).

In order for pupils to use other sockets around the school for charging, we must ensure we have checked that charging cables are in an appropriate condition.

We hold drop in sessions in at the start of the autumn term where a member of our support staff will carry out a visual inspection of charging cables.

The charger will then be marked with a 'CHS Checked' label and will then be ready to be used in other sockets at school.

Will pupils be able to access inappropriate material in lessons?

All access to the internet will be via our secure wireless network.

When the pupils connect to this they will use their standard network credentials and will be subject to exactly the same filtering and monitoring policies as they currently are on any school-owned machine.

This means that they will not be able to access restricted or inappropriate content at school.

Will my child's device be safe at school?

Just as we say all pupil's books and clothing must be labelled, you must ensure that a pupil's device, case, headphones and charging cable (if applicable) are clearly labelled. It is likely that many of the pupils will have similar sorts of devices so it is essential that they are named. All pupils have a safe and lockable locker at school and they should store their device in their locker when it is not in use or with them. When it is not stored in their locker, pupils should have their device with them at all times.

Neither the School nor the GDST will accept responsibility for any device which is damaged, lost or stolen on the school campus. We strongly advise that parents and guardians have appropriate insurance for the device that a pupil brings with them to school. In most cases, your household insurer will cover the damage, loss or theft of a device if it is under £1000. We recommend that you check with your insurer or bank, however.

What about personal safety and security beyond the school?

We have considered the question of safety of pupils very carefully and in doing so we:

- looked at many of GDST sister schools and their approaches. As you are probably aware many other local schools are running BYOD programmes in different guises;
- considered that many of our Sixth Form and pupils with particular learning needs are already bringing devices in to school each day;
- considered the general prevalence of technology carried across the general public in south London, and;
- looked at the existing use of mobile phones by our pupils, many of which are worth as much as a laptop or tablet device.

After considering all of these factors we made the assessment that to add a device to all pupils' backpacks was not going to increase the likelihood of them being targeted. The assumption is that most people will be carrying some sort of electronic device, and so it becomes more about behaviour and safety awareness as to whether an individual is targeted or not. This is not in any way to underestimate these issues. Indeed, pupils' awareness of personal safety is routinely addressed throughout the Senior School. We also recommend that they bring their device to school in a bag which has a discreet device compartment rather than (or as well as) having a separate case for it.