Kawana Waters State College

Device Purchasing Guide for Parents

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to assist parents when they are trying to purchase a machine for student use within the College. We would like to help facilitate engagement with as many students as possible to our online curriculum.

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TAKE THIS SHEET WITH YOU WHEN PURCHASING A LAPTOP

Hardware Minimum Specifications – BYOxLink

The College recommends that all laptops used by students meet the minimum specifications below to enable suitability for curriculum based activities. College ICT technicians will make every effort to enable connectivity of devices which meet these minimum specifications, assuming there are no technical or other issues outside of their control. An attempt will be made to connect other devices, but parents and students should be aware that connectivity may not be possible if there are technical or other issues.

Year 1 to Year 6

Windows Devices

	Minimum (Basic)	Medium (Increased Performance) Also works in Years 7 and 8
Operating System	Windows 10	Windows 10
Processor *	Dual Core AMD\Pentium or higher	Intel i3, Ryzen 3 or similar
CPU Speed *	2.0Ghz	2.8Ghz
Memory	4GB	6-8GB
Storage Capacity	128GB HDD	128GB SSD
Graphics	N/A	N/A
Antivirus	Windows defender is fine as an AV, as long as it is kept up-to-date. Use of other AV software is at the parent's discretion, some cause problems with filtering.	
Battery	All devices will need to last the day. Very few opportunities for students to charge their devices will be available.	
Wireless Connectivity	**802.11ac Wi-Fi (support of 5GHz wireless range is essential)**	
Warranty	An extended warranty or device protection plan is recommended, but is at the parent's discretion.	

Mac Devices

	Minimum
Form Factor	Any MacBook (not iPads)
Operating System	Mac OS X 10.15, latest OSX is best
Processor Type *	*Mac minimum exceeds our College minimum requirements
CPU Speed *	
Memory	
Storage Capacity	
Graphics	
Antivirus	**Please install an antivirus. They do not come with one as standard.**
Wireless Connectivity	**All Mac devices meet our wireless requirements.**
Warranty	An extended warranty or device protection plan is recommended, but is at the parent's discretion.

* Due to the ever changing and progressive nature of technologies, Kawana Waters State College cannot guarantee that component level specifications for Processor Type and CPU Speeds will be accurate at the time at which you go to purchase your device. Please ensure that you utilise this document when making your decisions if you are choosing to buy a device, and provide a copy to your chosen computer supplier to ensure that you are getting a suitable product for your students use. Please consult the KWSC IT Manager if you have any questions or concerns relating to this document. The College cannot tell you what to buy or who to buy from, however we can offer general advice to parents.

Kawana Waters State College Device Purchasing Assistance

Years 7 – 12, see link for more information and class requirements:

https://kawanawaterssc.eq.edu.au/SupportAndResources/FormsAndDocuments/Documents/ICT/byoxlink-minimum-specifications.pdf

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Student subject choices and interests should be considered when deciding what laptop should be purchased. See below for the subject list.

Year 7 to Year 12			
Windows Devices			
	Minimum	**Medium**	**High**
Operating System	Windows 10	Windows 10	Windows 10
Processor *	Core i3, Ryzen 3 or similar Pentium/AMD	Core i5, Ryzen 5 or similar	Core i5-i7, Ryzen 5-7
CPU Speed *	2.0Ghz or higher	3.0Ghz or higher	3.2Ghz or higher
Memory	4GB or more	8GB or more	8GB (16GB Recommended)
Storage Capacity	128GB SSD	256GB SSD or higher	256GB SSD or higher
Graphics	Check the requirements of Subject	1GB (check the requirements of the subject)	2GB (check the requirements of the subject)
Antivirus	Antivirus software **MUST** be installed on their device and are required to keep it regularly updated. Note: There are many free AVs and Windows 10 comes with Windows defender which is fine if kept updated.		
Battery	All devices will need to last the day. They cannot be charged on College grounds due to Occupational Health and Safety reasons and the high chance that the machine will be damaged due to cords being run around the classes.		
Wireless Connectivity	**802.11ac Wi-Fi (support of 5GHz wireless range is essential)**		
NOTE: For Students wishing to study CAD, Multimedia or some Arts subjects, the best device specifications would be a device in the Medium or High specifications above. Please consult the subject chart for recommended device levels for subjects.			
Warranty	An extended warranty or device protection plan is recommended, but is at the parent's discretion.		
Mac Devices			
	Minimum	**Recommended**	
Form Factor	MacBook	MacBook	
Operating System	Mac OS X 10.12, latest OSX is best	Mac OS X 10.12, Latest OSX is best	
Processor Type *	*Mac minimum exceeds our College minimum requirements	Intel Core i5 or higher	
CPU Speed *		3.2Ghz or higher	
Memory		8GB or more	
Storage Capacity		256GB or higher	
Graphics		Integrated GPU with at least 1GB	
Antivirus	Please install an antivirus as a precaution (free ones are fine). Mac's do get viruses if left unprotected and outdated.		
Please be aware that some subjects require Windows devices, or a dual boot windows image on their Mac.			
Wireless Connectivity	**All Mac devices meet our wireless requirements.**		
Warranty	An extended warranty or device protection plan is recommended, but is at the parent's discretion.		

Years 7 and 8 do not have elective units and should therefore be able to use a device with the minimum specifications. It is recommended to use something that the student is comfortable and familiar with. Please consult the store about the purchaseand ensure that it will run the required applications listed in the 'General Capabilities' section below.
Years 9-12 are elective years and will require consulting the following subject guide for the required device level. With this thenplease refer to the minimum specifications.

Minimum requirements breakdown

In the minimum requirements document we list low, medium and high requirements for students. These are normally based on their class elective choices. As years 1-8 do not have electives in the same way as senior secondary, there really isn't a massive need to go to the higher specifications for a device (unless you want them to have a high performing machine).

As such please indicate to sales people that these are the specifications that will suit your child:

Windows Devices	
	Minimum (Basic)
Operating System	Windows 10
Processor *	Dual Core AMD\Pentium or higher
CPU Speed *	2.0Ghz
Memory	4GB
Storage Capacity	128GB HDD
Graphics	N/A

Windows 10 is the supported operating system for the school environment.

Processor in this range will be able to handle the requirements of the office suite and be able to perform more than one function at a time.

4GB Memory as this is also standard requirements to run windows and applications.

128GB SSD HDD as the windows image itself will fill a smaller one. It needs room for updates and applications.

Battery – Needs to last the full school day, not on eco mode or sleeping, but the full days use.

Wireless connectivity (this one is tricky) – We have the latest wireless technology installed to the College. As such you need to ensure that it supports 802.11ac (5Ghz range, been standard since 2013). Please advise the salesman and they should understand what you are talking about. Or show them this note/ min specs.

Warranty and Accidental Damage – We do not require that you have a warranty or ADP, however this is practical and monetarily better in the event of an issue/ accident. If you put on a 3 year warranty and have ADP for 3 years, it is guaranteed to last that amount of time. If you do not have either and something goes wrong or the machine gets damaged, you will be up for the cost of another device. The College does not have insurance, nor do we take any responsibility for the loss or damage of a student's laptop in any way.

Antivirus – **There is no need to purchase an AV if you have a windows device**, Windows Defender comes standard with Windows 10 and works fine for an AV. Please ensure that the device is kept up-to-date by connecting it at home and running the Windows updates to ensure the device remains protected. Free/paid anti-virus software may make it more secure, but will also require it to be up-to-date also. MACs will need an AV as they do not come with one standardly.

Device setup and updates – Devices will need to be taken out of the box, setup and all updates performed from home. Connection to the school network can also be done from home, as long as the student knows their username/ email and password. The school network will not allow updates to be performed from site.

Office Applications – Do not buy any Microsoft Office Applications (word, excel, PowerPoint). They are all completely free for students through the Queensland Department of Education deal with Microsoft (info on the software page of the College website).

Carry Case – Best practice is that the students bring their machine in with a carry case every day. This is not a College requirement, more of a tip to reduce the likelihood of damage to the student device. It is in the students/ parent's best interest for them to use a protective case. Hard cases are better for impact resistance, soft cases don't do much to protect them.

Mice and keyboards – It's not a requirement that students have external mice/ keyboards. This is something that the students can bring in if they would like to. The school does not supply these.

Microsoft Family Features – Please do not set this up and please disable it if you have it active on their machine before they try and connect at the College. This does not work and will prevent the machine from being usable due to the Microsoft phone home type features that it has.

Device Internet filtering – Please do not activate internet filters for their machines during the school day. It will not make it through our rugged filtering and will result in the student not getting any internet. We have a very secure filter when students use our College network.

IT Device Connection Process

Students will need to have their username/email address and password to connect their machine. This can be provided by their teacher in advance or by their teacher when they start back at school. Once they have the account, there are instructions on the College website for connecting from home which will need to be followed. They can also follow these instructions from the College if they first connect to the Guest network.

Website link: https://kawanawaterssc.eq.edu.au/

Then click on the 'student laptop program' square on the front page.

From there we list the steps that it takes to have a child connected, from planning to connecting and software that they can install for school.

Click on the third step 'BYOxLink – Connect from home' and either follow the guides or watch and follow the video tutorials.

If you are unable to follow these steps, or you need assistance with these we are happy to help during an IT support time.

Primary IT Support times are:

- Every morning from 8.30am to 9am (Secondary Library)
- Every Monday and Wednesday at first break (Primary Library)

Secondary IT Support times are:

- Every morning from 8.30am to 9am (Secondary Library)
- Every Lunch Break (Secondary Library)

I can take appointments with parents between 3-4pm if required, however my time will be limited.

Students may need a parent present if attending the before or after school sessions.

No parent is required for the lunch break sessions as there will be a teacher present to supervise them.

Helpful Links

College Website –
https://kawanawaterssc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology

Vendor Portals –
https://kawanawaterssc.eq.edu.au/facilities/computers-and-technology/2-purchasing-assistance

College Contact/ Facilitator

Matthew Clark
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