

Bring Your Own Device – BYOD Policy
This policy has been written for the Senior School Only

Rationale

In line with the School’s Mission Statement, we aim to help students develop their gifts and talents: spiritual and social; intellectual and emotional; aesthetic and physical through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum, which is responsive to, and supportive of, their needs and aspirations, fosters intellectual curiosity and academic achievement, and motivates them to grow to their full potential. Our Mission Statement is distilled into our Vision Statement, and our aim is to develop our children, pupils and students so that they have “Strength of Mind, Strength of Values, Strength of Purpose”.

As part of a whole-school strategy to develop digital learning at Ratcliffe College, all students in Years 7-13 are permitted to use their own devices in school subject to parental consent via the Google Forms consent document sent out to parents at the start of each academic year. Permitted devices for Years 7-11 are limited to laptops, or tablets (but not mobile phones) with an integrated or detachable keyboard. Permitted devices for Sixth Form are laptops, tablets or mobile phones (though typing facility is preferable).

Using technology in this way will enhance the interaction of students with learning through the medium of digital technology and allow a more flexible and creative approach towards independent study.

Students are asked to bring their own mobile devices to school and to connect to the internet using Ratcliffe College Wi-Fi. This connection is subject to the same internet filtering system as school devices and is subject to parents and students reading carefully the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) which covers the conditions for using both school and personally owned devices. When students sign in to the Wi-Fi network, they accept the conditions set out in this policy.

In addition to the Acceptable Use Policy it is important to note that:

1. Personal mobile devices are not covered by the School’s insurance policy and the School cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to the device.
2. Students should ensure that they protect their devices with a laptop protective cover or tablet case and may be carried in a laptop sleeve. Please note that, in line with the School policy on bags, it will not be possible for students to bring in laptop bags unless specifically given permission by the School.
3. The School can only provide limited technical support for personal devices.
4. Charging points for student use are very limited and therefore students should ensure that their devices are fully-charged before bringing them to school.
5. The use of devices in lessons is entirely at the discretion of the teacher.
6. The device must not be connected to the internet via a 4G/5G or VPN connection.
7. Students will be responsible for maintaining their own devices.
8. Any work saved on the personal device will not be backed up in school. Students are advised to store important files on their Google account. (My Drive) or Microsoft One Drive. Memory sticks are not allowed.

Monitoring of the Policy

The policy will be monitored by the Assistant Head, Head of Sixth Form, Digital Learning Coordinator and SLT to monitor its implementation by means of staff and student feedback.

Links to other policies

- Acceptable Use Policy

Review

Policy reviewed annually by the Assistant Head, Head of Sixth Form and Senior Deputy Head. This policy was last reviewed in September 2020.