



# HELENSVALE STATE HIGH SCHOOL

2026

Laptop Program Charter



07 5573 8555



[administration@helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:administration@helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au)



[www.helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au](http://www.helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au)



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**Further Information:** Email: Matt Stanley - IT Manager – [mstan87@eq.edu.au](mailto:mstan87@eq.edu.au)

# OVERVIEW

Our laptop program at Helensvale State High School provides choice and flexibility for our students. It enables students with the potential for anywhere, anytime learning with the use of portable devices. Students who **do not** opt in to either of these programs, will have access to school ICT resources whilst on campus only. Our Laptop Program consists of the following (3) options.

## BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

Bring your own device (BYOD) is a term used to describe a digital device ownership model where students use their personally owned portable devices to access the Department's information and communication (ICT) network for learning.

Access to the Department's ICT network is provided only if the mobile device meets the Department's security requirements and minimum specifications (refer to 'Minimum Specifications' section below).

## Annual School Laptop Hire

The school has a limited but adequate number of school owned laptops that we hire on an annual basis to students, with priority given to senior school students.

The **Annual School Laptop Hire** option has a fee of **\$250 per annum** (required before laptop can be issued). Pro-rata refunds are based on a full school term, not part thereof (\$62.50 term). New enrolments throughout the year are charged in the same manner.

Accidental damage to an Annual Hire Laptop will incur a \$55 repair fee. Any loss of an Annual Hire Laptop which is unrecoverable will incur a \$200 fee towards its replacement. This also applies for malicious/deliberate damage.

## School Day Hire Laptop

**Nil Cost** – We have a limited quantity of Day Hire Laptops available to students who do not take part in either of the previous two options. Students are only allowed access to Day Hire Laptops when they hire at the beginning of the school day or during break times. Day Hire Laptops will not be issued during class time and must be returned to the IT Office at the end of the school day.

Day Hire Laptops are issued at random. We cannot guarantee the same laptop is available the following day. Day Hire Laptops are also made available to students participating in either BYOD or Annual Hire programs should their regular device suffer damage or requires a warranty repair. Day Hire laptops are not available for students participating in BYOD or Annual Hire programs if they simply forget to bring their device to school.

Accidental damage to a Day Hire Laptop will incur a \$55 repair fee and the loss of a Day Hire Laptop which is unrecoverable will incur a \$200 fee towards its replacement. This also applies for malicious/deliberate damage.

# BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)

## Device Selection

Prior to acquiring a device for use at school the parent/carer and student should be aware of the school's minimum specifications of appropriate device type, operating system requirements and software. These specifications relate to the suitability of the device to enable class activities, meet student needs, meet network requirements and promote safe and secure network access.

Devices may be purchased from any retailer, and most local stores will be familiar with the school's minimum device requirements. We do however offer the option of purchasing from one of our BYOD Vendor Portals (HP and Dell) to make selection a little easier. All devices available on the portals meet our specifications and have the option to include up to 3 years warranty as well as accidental damage protection. (Details are available on our website).

## Minimum Specifications

If purchasing from a store, please ensure you refer to the below MINIMUM requirements when selecting a device for use in the BYOD Program. This is to ensure compatibility with the Department of Education's BYOX Link network and avoid wasted expenditure and disappointment.

### Operating System Options:

- Windows 11 or later (Devices in S Mode will be required to switch out of S Mode during Intune enrolment) **Windows 10 is not supported**
- MacOS 14 or later (Please note, with older MacBooks, the device must be able to support at least the 3 latest MacOS systems. This is due to Microsoft Intune requirements).



**CAUTION - The the following devices are not supported and will not work at school. Chromebook, Android devices, Linux devices, iPad mini.**

**Processor:** Intel Celeron or Pentium Core 3 / AMD Ryzen 3

**(Not Supported – Qualcomm Snapdragon ARM or equivalent)**

**Memory:** Minimum 8GB RAM

**Screen Size:** Minimum 11 inch (maximum recommended size: 14")

**Hard Drive:** Minimum 256GB SSD

**Battery Life:** Minimum of 6+ hours. Please note it is expected that all devices will be fully charged at the beginning of the school day. **No personal chargers are to be brought to school.**

### Keyboard:

- Must have a tactile (physical) keyboard
- Touch screen keyboard alone is **Not Sufficient**

**Wireless Adaptor:** Must support 802.11ac/802.11ax 5Ghz wireless networks

**USB Ports:** minimum of 2

### Other Considerations:

- Extended warranty / Accidental Damage Protection
- Hard and/or well-padded protective case
- Weight and size factor for student carrying it all day and fitting into school bag
- The student's user account must be an administrator.

**NOTE:** Microsoft Office is included in your student's DOE user account free of charge

## Support Provided by School

- Helensvale SHS BYOD program will support printing, filtered Internet access (while connected to the school wireless network), and file access and storage while at school as well as technical support for diagnosis of hardware/software issues on privately owned devices.
- We also provide a liaison service with laptop vendors for parents who have purchased via our BYOD Partner Portals.

## Responsibility for Care of Device

- The student is responsible for taking care of and securing the device and accessories in accordance with school policy and guidelines.
- Responsibility for loss or damage of a device at home, in transit or at school belongs to the student.
- Advice should be sought regarding the inclusion in your home and contents insurance policy for loss and for accidental damage if the laptop is purchased from a store retailer and not via one of our vendor portals.

## Software

### Main Programs

When a student signs up for BYOD connectivity, the school will provide information and support with respect to the following software packages where agreements have been entered into between Education Queensland and the vendors for the purpose of providing student software for personally owned devices:

- *Microsoft Office* – every student in Education Queensland schools is entitled to download and install Microsoft Office onto a maximum of 5 personal devices for **free**.
- *Adobe Creative Cloud* – our students can obtain a free licence for a range of programs in this suite, if required in their school subjects only. This is organised by liaison with classroom teachers at the beginning of the year and again mid-year.
- *Adobe Express* – All students are issued with a licence to Adobe express. Adobe express applications can be accessed via the Adobe Express website <https://new.express.adobe.com/> using their Student DOE email address and password.

### Suggestions of additional software you may wish to install

- Antivirus software: Although Windows 10+ devices have *Microsoft Defender* as default virus protection, you may wish to install an alternative antivirus program such as Avast or AVG. Please ensure only 1 antivirus suite is installed – having more than one will cause conflicts.  
**N.B.** If you install a third-party antivirus, *Microsoft Defender* will automatically “step down”.
- We also recommend installing the following free software: Adobe Reader & VLC Player

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Responsibilities of Stakeholders Involved in the Program

### *The School*

- Laptop program induction — including information on connection, care of device at school, appropriate digital citizenship and cybersafety
- Network connection at school
- School network and cloud storage (OneDrive)
- School email address
- Internet filtering (when connected via the school's computer network)
- Technical support for all students (BYOD limitation as laptop is not school owned)
- Free software - Microsoft Office (all students) and Adobe products (if required in subject)
- Approved online memberships – e.g. Education Perfect, etc.
- Printing facilities and limited print credit (\$10 annually)

### *Student*

- Participation in laptop program induction
- Acknowledgement that core purpose of device at school is for educational purposes
- Care of device
- Appropriate digital citizenship and online safety
- Security and password protection – password must be difficult enough so as not to be guessed by other users and is to be kept private by the student and not divulged to other individuals
- Maintaining a current back-up of data – especially assessment
- Charging of device – it is expected that students will bring their laptop to school every day, fully charged, in preparation for the next day's classes – Personal chargers are not permitted
- Abiding by intellectual property and copyright laws (including software/media piracy)
- Internet filtering (when not connected to the school's network)
- Ensuring device will not be shared with another student for any reason
- No use of mobile phones to hot-spot to deliberately circumvent the cyber protections put in place for students on campus by Education Queensland

### *Parents and caregivers*

- Acknowledgement that core purpose of device at school is for educational purposes
- Internet filtering (when not connected to the school's network)
- Encouraging and supporting appropriate digital citizenship and cyber safety with child
- Ensuring that the child develops the habit of charging the laptop overnight in readiness for the next day's lessons and remembers to bring the device
- Providing installation of anti-virus software on BYOD devices
- Protective case for the device
- Adequate warranty/insurance of BYOD devices (if not purchased from the BYOD Vendor Portal)

## Web Filtering

At all times, students while using ICT facilities and devices, will be required to act in line with the requirements of the school's [Student Code of Conduct](#). (school website)

To protect students (and staff) from malicious web activity and inappropriate websites, Education Queensland operates a comprehensive web filtering system within their schools. Any device connected to the Internet through the school network will have filtering applied.

The filtering system provides a layer of protection to students and staff against:

- inappropriate web pages
- spyware and malware
- peer-to-peer sessions
- scams and identity theft

Whilst this filtering approach represents global best-practice in Internet protection measures, despite internal departmental controls to manage content on the Internet, illegal, dangerous or offensive information may be accessed or accidentally displayed. Students are required to report any Internet site accessed that is considered inappropriate. Any suspected security breach involving students, users from other schools, or from outside the Queensland QED network must also be reported to the school.

Privately owned devices have access to home and other out of school Internet services which may not include any Internet filtering. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to install a local filtering application (compatible with the school's BYOx network) on the student's device for when they are connected in locations other than school. Parents/caregivers are responsible for appropriate Internet use by students outside the school.

In relation to this, students and parents need to be aware of the following:

- Students are not permitted to hot-spot their phones for Internet connectivity, as this negates the very benefits that are designed to protect them from being vulnerable whilst online at school. Students caught doing this will face consequences.
- It is totally unacceptable for students to download programs onto their computer that are designed to circumvent the filtering protection provided by Education Queensland on the school campus.
- Using VPN (Virtual Private Network) software **will** conflict with the school wireless connectivity process – i.e. they will not be able to access the Internet or necessary network drives whilst on campus.

## Data Security and Back-ups

- Students must understand the importance of backing up data securely. Should a hardware or software fault develop, important assignment work may be lost.
- The student is responsible for the backup of all data. While at school, students are able to save data to the school's network which is safeguarded by a scheduled nightly backup and therefore strongly encouraged as the most reliable form of backup.
- Education Queensland also provides every student with approximately 2TB of secure cloud storage (*OneDrive*) which of course is accessible on and off campus.
- Whilst other forms of back-up such as USB drives, external hard drives are an option, these do not have the security and reliability of *OneDrive* and the school server. They are volatile in the sense that they can be damaged, data corrupted and are easily misplaced.
- Students who are part of the school laptop hire program or have purchased their laptop from the BYOD Vendor Portal should also be aware that in the event that any repairs need to be carried out on the laptop relating to the hard drive, data stored on the laptop could be lost.

## Acceptable Computer and Internet Use

Upon enrolment in a Queensland Government school, parental or caregiver permission is sought to give the student(s) access to the internet, based upon the relevant policies of Education Queensland.

Communication through internet and online communication services must comply with the [Student Code of Conduct](#) available on the school website.

There are conditions that students are required to adhere to. Students should not:

- create, participate in or circulate content that attempts to undermine, hack into and/or bypass the hardware and/or software security mechanisms that are in place
- disable settings for virus protection, spam and/or internet filtering that have been applied as part of the school standard
- use unauthorised programs or intentionally download unauthorised software, graphics or music
- intentionally damage or disable computers, computer systems or QED networks
- use the device for unauthorised commercial activities, political lobbying, online gambling or any unlawful purpose.

**Note:** Students' use of Internet and online communication services may be audited at the request of appropriate authorities for investigative purposes surrounding inappropriate use.

## Passwords

- Passwords must not be obvious or easily guessed; they must be kept confidential and changed when prompted or when known by another user.
- Personal accounts cannot be shared. Students should not allow others to use their personal account for any reason. Students should log off at the end of each session to ensure no one else can use their account or laptop.

## Digital Citizenship

- Students should be conscious creators of the content and behaviours they exhibit online and take active responsibility for building a positive online reputation. They should be conscious of the way they portray themselves, and the way they treat others online.
- Students should be mindful that the content and behaviours they have online are easily searchable, accessible and may form a permanent online record into the future.
- Interactions within digital communities and environments should mirror normal interpersonal expectations and behavioural guidelines, such as when in a class or the broader community.
- Parents are requested to ensure that their child understands this responsibility and expectation. The school's behaviour policies also support students by providing school related expectations, guidelines and consequences.

## Cybersafety

If a student believes they have received a computer virus, spam (unsolicited email), or they have received a message or other online content that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable, they must inform their teacher, parent or caregiver as soon as is possible.

Students must also seek advice if another user seeks personal information, asks to be telephoned, offers gifts by email or asks to meet a student.

Students are encouraged to explore and use the [‘Cyberbullying help button’](#) on school devices to talk, report and learn about a range of cyber safety issues. Cyber safety is also addressed in Futures lessons throughout the year.

Students must never initiate or knowingly forward emails, or other online content, containing:

- a message sent to them in confidence
- a computer virus or attachment that is capable of damaging the recipient's computer
- chain letters, hoax emails or phishing emails
- spam (such as unsolicited advertising).

Students must never send, post or publish:

- inappropriate or unlawful content which is offensive, abusive or discriminatory
- threats, bullying or harassment of another person
- sexually explicit or sexually suggestive content or correspondence
- false or defamatory information about a person or organisation.

## Misuse and Breaches of Acceptable Usage

- Students should be aware that they are held responsible for their actions while using the Internet and online communication services.
- Students will be held responsible for any breaches caused by other person(s) knowingly using their account to access Internet and online communication services.
- The school reserves the right to restrict/remove access of personally owned mobile devices to the intranet, Internet, email or other network facilities to ensure the integrity and security of the network and to provide a safe working and learning environment for all network users.
- The misuse of personally owned mobile devices may result in disciplinary action which includes, but is not limited to, the withdrawal of access to school supplied services.

## Responsible Use

Our goal is to ensure the safe and responsible use of facilities, services and resources available to students through the provision of clear guidelines.

- Portable devices on campus should be primarily used for engagement in class work and assignments set by teachers, conducting general research for school activities and projects and communicating or collaborating with other students, teachers, parents, caregivers or experts for educational purposes.
- Information sent from our school network contributes to the community perception of the school. All students using our ICT facilities are encouraged to conduct themselves as positive ambassadors for our school.
- Parents and caregivers need to be aware that damage to portable devices owned by other students or staff may result in significant consequences in relation to breaches of expectations and guidelines in the school's behavior policies.
- The school will educate students on cyber bullying, safe Internet and email practices. Students have a responsibility to incorporate these safe practices in their daily behaviour at school.
- All material on the device is subject to audit by authorised school staff. If at any stage there is a police request, the school may be required to provide the authorities with access to the device and personal holdings associated with its use.

When using portable devices, students **MUST NOT**:

- use the device in an unlawful manner
- create or participate in circulating content that attempts to undermine, hack into and/or bypass the hardware and/or software security mechanisms that are in place
- disable settings for virus protection, spam and/or Internet filtering that have been applied as part of the school standard
- download (or using unauthorised software for), distributing or publishing of offensive messages or pictures
- use obscene, inflammatory, racist, discriminatory/derogatory or bullying language
- download viruses/other programs capable of breaching the Department's network security

- use the mobile device's camera or recording functions inappropriately, violating the privacy of other individuals
- covertly use Bluetooth functionality during lessons or exams
- hotspot their phone to bypass the school's protective filtering designed to ensure cyber safety
- at any time attempt to access other computer systems, accounts or unauthorised network drives or files or to access other people's devices without their permission.

## Privacy and Confidentiality

Students must not use another student or staff member's username or password to access the school network or another student's device. Students must not trespass in another person's files, home drive, email or access unauthorised network drives or systems.

Additionally, students should not divulge personal information via the Internet or email, to unknown entities or for reasons other than to fulfil the educational program requirements of the school. It is important that students do not publish or disclose the email address of a staff member or student without that person's explicit permission. Students should also not reveal personal information including names, addresses, photographs, credit card details or telephone numbers of themselves or others. They should ensure that privacy and confidentiality is always maintained.

## Intellectual Property and Copyright

Students should never plagiarise information and should observe appropriate copyright clearance, including acknowledging the original author or source of any information, images, audio etc. used. It is also important that the student obtain all appropriate permissions before electronically publishing other people's works or drawings. The creator or author of any material published should always be acknowledged. Material being published on the Internet or Intranet must have the approval of the Principal or their delegate and have appropriate copyright clearance.

Copying of software, information, graphics or other data files may violate copyright laws and be subject to prosecution from agencies to enforce such copyrights.