

BYOD buying guide for Parents/Carers

This guide is designed to help you purchase a suitable school laptop for your child. We understand that parents/carers have a variety of IT knowledge, budget, and expectations. The recommended specifications, vendor portal details and jargon buster in this document are designed to make your decision easier. This guide should be read in conjunction with the Bring Your Own Device page of our website which explains the BYOD Program offered by Centenary SHS in more detail.

Important note: We strongly recommend devices running Windows as they have the best integration with our network, match the expertise and expectations of teachers and offer the greatest range of classroom applications. As such, all our recommended specifications and vendor portal refer to Windows devices only. For information about non-Windows devices see the information [here](#). Please also be aware that support for Windows 10 will end in October 2025.

Centenary SHS is not responsible for any damage to personal devices brought to school. Students/parents assume all responsibility for damage to personal electronic devices. It is highly recommended that all suitable insurance cover is provided, such as accidental damage insurance.

Recommended Device Specifications

Specifications	Recommended	High performance
Device type	Windows Laptop or Windows "2-in-1" Device (tablet with keyboard attachment)	
CPU	Pentium / Core i3 / Ryzen 3 (Not Celeron)	Core i5 / Ryzen 5 series or up
RAM	8GB or greater	
Graphics	Integrated graphics	Dedicated Graphics
Storage	256GB SSD	
Screen	11" to 15" 1280x800 minimum resolution	14" to 15" Full HD
Battery Life	Advertised battery life of at least six hours	
Wireless Network	Device must have 5GHz dualband support – sometimes referred to as 802.11n, 802.11ac or 802.11ax	
Operating System	Windows – NOTE: Chromebooks will not work	
Case	Hard sided protective water-resistant laptop case to suit laptop model	
Software	AntiVirus – many free options available including built-in to Windows 10 Microsoft Office – available for free using the links from the Centenary SHS website	
Optional	Accidental Damage Protection (ADP) – Insurance against accidental breakage Touchscreen and Digital Stylus	

Purchasing through the LWT BYOD portal

We have an arrangement with Learning with Technology (LWT) to offer recommended devices directly to our school community. LWT has extensive experience with school BYOD programs and offer devices that meet the specifications above, including options for Accidental Damage Protection and Protective Cases, both of which are highly recommended. The portal provides several options, ranging from entry-level to high performance, and includes recommendations for students studying Visual Arts & Media or Design Technologies subjects in Years 10-12 who may want a more powerful device.

The school will also provide facilities for LWT to provide applicable warranty and accidental damage repairs here at the school, saving parents/carers the inconvenience of technicians coming to your home or workplace.

While we do encourage parents/carers to consider the LWT portal, we do not endorse any one supplier and are not responsible for any problems you may have with the device. We encourage parents/carers to do their own research before making any final decisions.

Log into the LWT portal here: <https://cshs.orderportal.com.au>

Other Considerations when purchasing

'Business/Enterprise' vs. 'Consumer' laptops

- Where possible we recommend laptops advertised as business/enterprise, as they are designed for durability, productivity, and all-day use. Consumer devices may be cheaper, and sometimes prettier, but are not designed for day-in/day-out school use

Gaming Laptops

- While gaming laptops are often more powerful, they are also usually too heavy to be practical for carrying around school, and do not have the battery life to be practical. Please leave such devices at home.

Weight

- Maximum recommended weight: 2kg. Heavier laptops can be uncomfortable to carry and more susceptible to damage

Warranty

- 3 years is ideal
- Coverage (check for exclusions, for example on the battery)
- Onsite (better, faster) or Return to Base (slower)

Accidental Damage Protection (ADP)

Where available, coverage for accidental breakages is highly recommended. The terms of ADP cover vary considerably:

- Number/frequency of allowed claims
- Excess costs
- Some home insurance policies cover accidental damage at school. Contact your insurer for advice

Protecting your device from damage

- A good quality protective case can prevent expensive damage. Look for one with a hard 'shell' component
- Cheap, thin cases may look good but give very little protection from drops or other damage
- All devices must have the student's name clearly labelled

Antivirus

- Must be installed and up-to-date in order to join our network
- Many suitable free options, such as Windows Defender which comes preinstalled with Windows, are available so there is no need to purchase additional software

Software for Education Qld students

- Microsoft Office – available for free using the links from the Centenary SHS website
- Adobe Software – access to the Adobe suite is available through the school

Jargon-buster

These are terms you may come across while purchasing a device:

BYOD – Bring Your Own Device. Sometimes also referred to as BYOx or Bring Your Own 'X'.

CPU – Central Processing Unit. The brains of the computer. Responsible for handling workload. As a general rule, the first 2 digits in a CPU name is the 'generation', so a higher number is newer.

Graphics - Laptops can have either integrated graphics or a dedicated graphics card. Dedicated cards are recommended for visually intensive applications such as video editing, computer-aided design and special effects.

Office – A package of software containing common productivity tools such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Freely available for students using the links on the Centenary SHS website.

RAM – Random Access Memory - The internal memory of the computer, measured in Gigabytes (GB). The more it has, the faster it will be. At least 8GB is highly recommended.

Windows 10 S – A cut down version of Windows 10. Prevents all applications from running except those downloaded from the Microsoft Store. While advertised as being made for schools, it will not work with the Centenary SHS network.

Wireless Network – This refers to the protocols the laptop can use to connect to Wi-Fi. Our network requires 5GHz 802.11n or higher support which is standard in most new laptops. In marketing documentation, this can be listed as many different things. Look for the words Dualband, 802.11n, 802.11ac, 802.11ax or even WI-FI 4 (or higher)