

## What is Connect2learn?

The Connect2learn program engages our current generation of students with their learning by bringing their own personal contemporary mobile devices to school to use with class activities, tasks and homework.

At GyMEA, we believe that these devices enable students to be self-directed with their learning and organisation as well as develop collaborative skills that reinforce both information and basic learning skills. Use of this device will enhance the teaching and learning and facilitate the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills that better engage students in lifelong learning.

Students will be using their devices to access information, access online learning management tools and share their learning.

## Which device?

The choice of device is very much a personal preference, but the following guide helps bring more meaning to options to consider that will meet the needs of your child while accommodating for different budgets.

## Technical Characteristics to consider.

**Hard Drive Storage:** This is the storage used to save additional software, apps or any offline files such as pictures, documents and videos. Most Chrome and Google apps will save in online storage. The size of hard drives will typically range from 64 Gb – 256 Gb.

**Screen size:** These are the dimensions of the diagonal of the screen. Typically, these range from 10.5” to 16”. A 13” is your optimal sized laptop screen for use at school.

**Processing memory speed (RAM):** The higher the RAM in the device the faster processing the computer can undertake. The minimum 4Gb of RAM would satisfy, though 8Gb would be recommended.

**Processors:** There are a range of processors and are more difficult to compare. Generally speaking, the more expensive the device, the higher the processing speed.

**Weight:** The weight of the device impacts on the weight in the students bag. A device between 1 – 2 kilograms would be optimal.

## Chromebooks

These are our recommended device.

Chromebooks are consistent and reliable at home and at school as they work seamlessly and effectively with the department's Wi-Fi and with the DoE Google suite for learning. These devices have taken off across NSW as they are easy, versatile and look great.

Students just turn them on and logon for instant access to their cloud resources. These devices have the performance to complete classroom tasks including accessing and utilising the online versions of Microsoft 365 and Google Workspace as well as online creative and STEM activities including online coding.

These devices are a value for money option that give all students accessibility to all the education platforms that they require. The difference between a Chromebook and other laptops are that they run their own operating system so only additional apps available on the Chrome store can be installed.

### Example of an entry level device \$400 - \$500

Lenovo Ideapad SLIM 3 Chromebook



Hard drive - 128Gb

Screen Size - 14"

RAM - 4Gb

Weight - 1.3 kg

Battery life - 10 hours battery life

### Example of mid-range device \$500 - \$900

Lenovo Duet 5 13.3" Full HD OLED  
Chromebook



Hard drive - 128Gb

Screen Size - 13.3"

RAM - 4Gb

Weight - 1 kg

Battery life - 10 hours battery life

### Example of a high-end device above \$900

Asus Flip CX34 14" FHD  
Chromebook Plus



Hard drive - 256Gb

Screen Size - 14"

RAM - 8Gb

Weight - 1.5 kg

Battery life - 10 hours battery life

## Specialist Laptops

A non-Chromebook device allows you to install outside applications such as Adobe suite and Microsoft products. This includes Mac and PC laptops. These are very much a personal preference.

The school has ample desktop devices at school with specialist software meeting the needs of specialist activities. Some students have specific preferences and need for certain software. This is where non-Chromebook devices are more suitable.

### Technical characteristics to consider for specialist laptops

- Hard Drive Storage 256Gb minimum space as the operating system takes up space.
- Screen size. Recommend no less than 13”.
- Processing memory speed. Recommend no less than 8Gb RAM.
- Weight - these usually weigh more, so keep in mind the weight of the laptop.

### Example of an entry Level \$800 - \$1000

HP 15s-fq5211TU 15.6” Full HD Laptop



Hard drive - 256Gb

Screen Size - 15.6”

RAM - 8Gb

Weight - 1.5 kg

Battery life - 7 hours battery life

### Example of a mid-range around \$1500

Apple MacBook Air 13”



Hard drive - 256Gb

Screen Size - 13”

RAM - 8Gb

Weight - 1.5 kg

Battery life - 7 hours battery life

## Protection and security of devices

The care of devices remains the responsibility of the student. When a device is owned by that student, the responsibility to care for the device becomes more personal. Allowing your child to have input into the selection of the device is critical to engage that ownership.

It is important however to consider several precautionary measures to safeguard personal devices.

A bag, protectors, cases, screen protectors and so on are very important to safeguard in the event of accidents.