



Dear Parents

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) is an initiative that requires students to bring their own devices to school to support their learning. The idea is firmly based on global research that shows children's learning is enhanced greatly when BYOD is implemented. GRDS is set up with secure Wi-Fi coverage to access the school network and internet, allowing students to bring in their own devices and use them for educational purposes within the classrooms.

To achieve school-wide BYOD we require that:

- **Year 1- 4 bring an iPad.** This is specific to Year 1- 4 and is designed around the work they will do.
- **Year 5 & 6 bring a laptop.** In addition to this, students can also bring any device they feel they need to do their work. This could be a tablet but not a smartphone. We believe students need to start working in a way that will prepare them for the future. We have given some guidelines at the end of this letter on devices.

Below is a guide to help you when buying a laptop or iPad. If you have a laptop or iPad at home, then use that one; there is no need to buy a new one. If you are unsure if it is suitable, then do get in touch with us and we can advise you.

Minimum Technical Specifications for BYOD

| Device | Laptop Y5-6 | iPad/tablet Y1-4 |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Screen Size | 10"-13" preferred | Any iPad or tablet |
| Hard Drive | 120GB minimum | 16GB minimum (64GB preferred) |
| RAM | 8GB minimum | N/A |
| Battery Life | 4 hours + | N/A |
| Accessories Required | Protective bag/case. Headphones | Protective bag/case. Headphones |
| Wi-Fi | 2.4/5Ghz supported (802.11a/b/g/n) | 2.4/5Ghz supported (802.11a/b/g/n) |

Device insurance

At GEMS Royal Dubai School, we do all we can to provide the best conditions so that damage does not occur. However, it is possible that an accident could happen. To be covered in this instance it is recommended that you have the device covered in your own Home and Contents insurance or similar.



Digital Citizenship and e-Safety

At RDS we use a range of programs and tools to teach Digital citizenship and E-safety.

National Online Safety

GEMS RDS is a member of National Online Safety. AT RDS we take Internet safety very seriously and we are working towards our National Online Safety certification.

All teaching staff are required to complete an Internet Safety Course to make sure they are aware of the dangers pupils may face online. NOS also provides updates and information on apps and social media networks to keep teacher knowledge up to date.

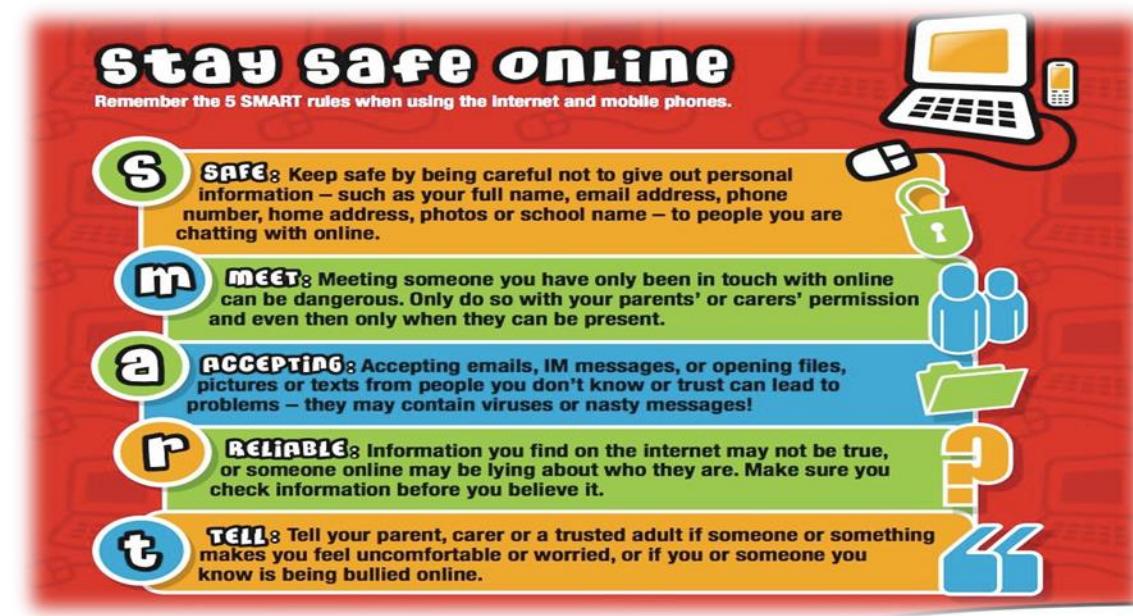
<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/login>

Common Sense Media - The Scope and Sequence of this curriculum covers a wide range of issues and challenges the children to think about how they look after themselves online.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org>

Kidsmart. - Very interactive and makes a great foundation to work from. The key is the SMART anagram which the children learn and understand. This is also great for parents to use at home. See below:

<http://www.kidsmart.org.uk/beingsmart/>



Please see the 'Frequently Asked Questions' section below and if you still have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact either myself, or any member of the Senior Leadership or Digital Learning Coach.

Yours faithfully

Vicky Martin Principal / CEO

GEMS
EDUCATION



GEMS Royal Dubai School BYOD FAQ's

What does 'BYOD' mean?

Bring Your Own Device. That simple!

Can we purchase an iPad instead of a Laptop?

We have thought very carefully about this. Year 5 and 6 will need a laptop, some of the online tools and activities the students will be required to use at school may not work as well on an iPad. Students will need access to online textbooks, resources, and web tools that may require Adobe Flash which is not available on iPads.

Do I need any accessories for my IPAD or laptop?

We would expect students to have a set of headphones that they can use with their device in school. A detachable keypad would be a suggested accessory for an IPAD; however, this is not a requirement.

Where should we buy the device?

Any store would be fine. There are several Dubai stores that have great deals - Carrefour, Geant, Sharaf DG, Emax and many more. You are spoilt for choice! If you are buying Apple products, we advise you buy from an Apple Authorised Reseller or the Apple Store and keep all of your receipts (proof of purchase) in a safe place. Always write your Apple ID's and passwords down and store them in a safe place as well. Please also see the Gems Rewards App for great deals on devices.

Will BYOD mean that students will no longer be using books, pens & paper?

Technology such as laptops and other electronic devices are classed as educational tools just like paper, pens, and print books. 'Traditional technologies' will still be used, and it will be up to the teacher's discretion as to which tool would be the most appropriate for the class. Having said that, our BYOD Policy will allow students to access our network on their own devices in order to further their learning and narrow the divide between home and school learning.

Will the school provide machines to use while a student device is in for repairs?

GEMS Royal Dubai School will have a limited supply of extra laptops to be signed out in extenuating circumstances. This will provide web access so students can retrieve and work on online resources, documents, and projects. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure any work saved locally on their own device is backed up regularly.

Will the school teach students how to use, maintain, and update their own devices?

GEMS Royal Dubai School teachers will be able to assist students and show them how to use online tools required for class activities and projects. Teachers will assist children on how to download their Office 365 accounts onto their desktops. While there will be times where they may also have time to assist our students in providing some tips and direction in the maintenance and updating of their devices, the ultimate responsibility will rest with the student and their parents/guardians. Support from a local retailer at the student's cost may be necessary for support with software installation, virus protection software or repairs/upgrades.

Will students be required to go online at home?

Many of the tools and resources used at school are 'online' resources which require an Internet connection in order to work. We strongly recommend a home Internet connection.

Will GEMS Royal Dubai School provide Internet filtering?

Yes. Students who connect to the Internet at school will be protected from inappropriate content by the UAE and School Internet filters. These filters will only work while students are connected in school and on the school network and it is the parent's responsibility to monitor their child's Internet use at home.

What if the battery runs out during school?

Student devices will be required to have an expected battery life of at least 4 hours. For most students this will be enough to get them through the school day. Students are required to have their devices fully charged for the start of each school day, but there may be places in each class where students will be able to charge if necessary.

Can my child keep their laptop in school?

Laptops can be stored in the classroom for the week in a locked cupboard.

What about viruses and security issues?

The school infrastructure is designed to minimize the risk of viruses, trojans and other malware from external devices. There are a variety of programs to keep your computer 'virus free' as well as several good free ones. An antivirus software that comes highly recommended is <http://www.avast.com/>