



مدرسة الجميرا الابتدائية
GEMS JUMEIRAH PRIMARY SCHOOL
A GEMS SCHOOL

GEMS Jumeirah Primary School Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

What is a BYOD Program?

The first phase of the BYOD program, permitting students to bring their own Internet connected devices to school was introduced in September 2013 for Year 5 and 6 children. We are now in the second phase of introducing BYOD as Year 4 children entering into Year 5 in September 2014 will be invited to be involved in the initiative.

Why change?

We have a vision for the integration of technology for the children at JPS. We have a responsibility to fully prepare our students for the realities of the university and professional worlds into which they will move after Primary and Secondary education. Technological fluency is as essential as literacy and numeracy, and will enhance creativity and inquiry-based learning, which are cornerstones of our educational philosophy.

As parents, administrators and teachers, we recognize the importance of technology, now and in the future. Indeed, the future is here, as forward-thinking schools around the world have embraced the inclusion of technology as a best- practice in teaching and learning.

Beyond the simple reality that technology has, and will continue to, change and drive the way all things get done, significant research demonstrates that meaningful use of technology in the learning process has the following beneficial results for students:

The development of 21st century learning skills, including experience in consuming, filtering and producing multimodal content, skills which will be essential for success in university study and workplaces of the future

What kind of educational activities will the personal devices be used for?

- Working in Google Apps for Education for various purposes such as producing documents, spreadsheets, and/or slide shows
- Google Apps for Education to discuss a concept or collaborate on a project
- Video and audio recordings to support learning
- Viewing video instructions
- Creatively collating information and producing presentation using innovative websites
- Taking notes into their device during class and organising digital notebooks and folders
- Accessing the Internet during class to research for projects or group efforts
- Contributing to and creating blogs to discuss assignments

It is increasingly normal and desirable for students to utilize their own devices to enhance their learning, across the curriculum and to pursue their own interests outside of that sphere of learning. Extensive student surveys and meetings across GEMS schools indicate that, not only are the students ready for BYOD, they are expecting it. Furthermore, BYOD is gaining significant traction as an inexorable development in the workplace, lending further weight to the need for schools to embrace this way of working.

GEMS is committed to providing its students with the skills and attributes they will need to flourish in an ever-changing, technology-driven, global society. The opportunity for students to learn in a Bring Your Own Device environment is an essential element of the GEMS commitment to all our students and their families.

Transition to Jumeirah College

We are working alongside Jumeirah College launched BYOD school wide system in September 2013. Jumeirah College are also using 'Google Apps for Education' to create and collaborate documents. Jumeirah College will adopt a phased approach bring your own device KS3 (Year 7 to 9).

Therefore, as Jumeirah College will be invited to bring their own device to school; therefore, our cohorts of Year 6 students in September were therefore equipped for the transition to secondary school upon entering Year 7 in September 2014.

What are the Hardware and Software Considerations?

1. What types of computing devices may my child bring to school?

Students may use devices that fall into the following categories: (1) laptops, (2) netbooks and (3) tablets.

Are there suggested accessories?

All students should also have an inexpensive set of personal headphones, with a microphone. A padded case / carry bag is necessary to protect your child's device in transit.

How can my child's device connect to the Internet?

All GEMS schools provide a robust wireless network which students may connect to while using their devices in the building. All devices need to be registered on the network and details of this process will be sent separately nearer the time.

Additionally, students may use an Internet connection from an outside provider. In this case, the family will be responsible for any expense incurred using this type of Internet connection.

Will there be "charging stations" so my child's electronic device can be recharged?

Limited power is available in classrooms, although we anticipate that not every class will be using an electronic device in every lesson, every day. Considering today's electronic device battery technology, the device's battery charge should be sufficient for lessons requiring use of the device throughout the day. "Charging stations" will not be provided. As a general rule, 4 hours' battery life on Wi-Fi should be seen as a minimum.

Can my child use an iPad or Android / Windows tablet?

Any type of tablet, netbook or laptop can be used. Whichever you choose, the device must be able to connect wirelessly to the school's wireless network.

Can my child bring more than one device?

No. During the optional period all students may bring only one devices.

What software will be needed on my child's computer?

You do not need to purchase or install any software on your child's computer. All GEMS students have free online access to Google Apps for Education - free of charge. For tablets and other mobile devices, there may be a suggestion to purchase a small number of recommended applications throughout the year; however this will not be mandatory.

Because purchasing a computing device is a personal choice, anyone may purchase and use other productivity tools that best suit one's personal needs. Students can install their own programs and applications, subject to the provisions of the Responsible Use Policy and Home School Agreement, which will ensure that learning is optimised through the use of technology.

Whose Responsibility Is It?

1. Who pays for the technology brought to school?

These devices will be purchased by and remain the property of the family.

2. Who is responsible for any repairs or updating to personal computing devices?

Students and/or their families are responsible for their personal computing devices at all times. The school does not have the technology support staff to repair or update personal computing devices.

3. Who is responsible for damage, loss, or theft of devices my child brings to school?

Families must stress the responsibilities their children have when bringing their own computing devices to school. Any devices students bring to school are their sole responsibility.

Whilst the school will take due care to ensure the safety of the devices on campus, the school and GEMS Education accept no responsibility for loss or damage to devices, however caused. We recommend that you add any devices to your home insurance policy and check that this covers loss, theft and damage outside of the home.

The school will provide lockable storage for devices and take all reasonable steps to ensure that procedures for the use and storage of devices are followed.

Will the family need to have Internet access at home?

It would be very helpful to have some form of Internet access available to your child outside school in order for them to make full use of school resources outside of the school day, as well the multitude of resources available on the Internet. More and more preparation for learning in school will start to take place online outside of school hours and, accordingly, it is becoming increasingly important for students to have access to the Internet beyond the confines of the school building and day.

Miscellaneous Information

1. When can my child use the electronic device at school?

Students may use their electronic devices in class and shared study areas when it is deemed to enhance their learning. The circumstances in which this will be the case will become clearer as time passes, but there

will always be agreement between the student and teacher. We expect and encourage students to make their own choices as to effective and appropriate use of technology, supported by their teachers.

Students should bring their devices every day, unless instructed to the contrary, e.g. for special events such as sports days.

2. Where will the devices be stored when not in use?

At break times and during periods where the children are attending specialist lessons, devices will be stored within lockable storage units within each classroom.

3. Will students be able to print documents from their personal computing devices?

Students will not be able to access printers at the School from their personal computing devices. We will provide alternatives, where necessary: (1) printing capabilities from school computers, and/or (2) electronic delivery of documents through email or other online methods. The school is aiming to reduce the need for printing to a minimum, as this procedure is no longer considered to be necessary to support modern methods of effective teaching and learning.

4. Where will my child's work be stored?

Students will be encouraged to store their work in the cloud using Google Drive through Google Apps for Education. In so doing, the student will have access to their work wherever they have Internet access.

5. Will my child be safe online?

The school has a Digital Citizenship program, which is delivered and embedded across the curriculum. In conjunction with the Responsible Use Policy and Home School Agreement, this is the primary approach to ensuring that our students learn to act safely and responsibly in the online environment. The school does have the capability to monitor sites visited on all registered devices whilst they are connected to the school's Wi-Fi network. It is recognized that such an approach, on its own, is inadequate to ensure students' safety, as it is not possible to continue such monitoring outside of school, or where students are using 3G/4G networks. Accordingly, the school believes that digital citizenship education and a strong partnership with parents is the most effective approach to protecting our children online. Partnership, Responsible Use Education, Collective Responsibility and Trust are the cornerstones of the school's philosophy and these pillars will be reinforced and embedded in the daily life of the school.

Collective Responsibility

Trust

So, whilst the school has the technical capability to monitor and log student activity on campus, the approach is in fact twofold:

- a) Monitoring software will detect any clearly inappropriate use of technology on campus, for example, bad language; and
- b) Investigations into individuals' inappropriate online behaviour are to be undertaken retrospectively and only where such behaviour has come to light.

This ensures an appropriate balance between child protection and privacy. There will be no blanket monitoring or 'snooping.'