



# Digital Learning at Miras

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## Rationale

In March 2020, the World was profoundly changed. With the global spread of the Corona Virus and the resulting COVID-19 Pandemic, society had to respond so that we could help each other survive the threat. Technology played a significant role in helping us coordinate our response and coordinate the actions that each country took to ward off this threat.

Education also changed, and along with many International schools around the world, Miras switched from traditional classroom learning to a distance learning model. Many of the changes we had been preparing to make to become a Digital School steadily over the next few years were upon us over night.

Before the pandemic took hold, we already knew that the classroom was changing because of how technology was impacting on our daily lives. We also knew that the school would have to change in response to this pressure. Little did we know however, how hugely important technology would be in helping the members of our community continue to function during the time of quarantine. On reflection it seems only right and proper that we use the lessons learned and experiences gained from distance learning, to help shape the future Digital School we want to become.

One step along the road to becoming a Digital School is to begin using the tools we developed for distance learning in the regular classroom. To do this we will encourage students to use digital learning more in their everyday activities in school. This document serves to outline a pilot programme for creating a digital learning environment that will support our students achieve this goal.

## Bring Your Own Device

While some efforts have been made to use technology in mainstream subject areas, until we adopted distance learning in March 2020 it was not as widely used as we perhaps wished. The first signs of a fundamental shift towards integrating technology more into the classroom will become evident in September 2020, when we begin implementing a “**B.Y.O.D.**” **POLICY** in the Secondary school. (A slightly different approach is being taken in the Primary school, details of which can be obtained by contacting the Primary school.)

**B.Y.O.D.** = **B**ring **Y**our **O**wn **D**evice

On the following pages, information about the policy is organised as a series of frequently asked questions, to help families understand this policy and how they can best benefit from it.

## Frequently asked Questions

### What hardware and software can be used?

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

- Students may use devices that fall into the following categories:
  - Laptops / Netbooks / Tablets / eReaders
- In some instances teachers **may** allow cell phones/smartphones and MP3 players to be used.
- For serious academic applications, a keyboard and screen (min. 25cm), are recommended.

- IB Diploma students should bring a laptop to school every day, because of the nature of the assignments they will work on in class and in private study time each day.
  - MYP Grade 10 and 11 students may need occasional use of a laptop for major assessments.
- 2. How can my child's device connect to the Internet?**
    - Miras provides Wi-Fi access which students may connect to while using their devices in school.
    - Alternatively, a student 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.
    - Students will not be allowed to connect their personal computing device to the Miras wired network for security reasons.
  - 3. Are there suggested accessories?**
    - Providing a padded bag or protective sleeve is suggested. This will provide more protection for the day to day use of the device.
    - A pair of headphones with microphone may be useful when accessing a website with audio and/or video content and may be particularly useful for language classes.
  - 4. Will there be a "charging station" so my child's device can be recharged?**
    - We do not anticipate that every single lesson will be using a device every day. Battery technology is such that the battery charge should be sufficient for lessons requiring the device throughout the day. Students are encouraged to ensure that devices brought to school are fully charged in the morning.
    - **"Charging stations" will not be provided.**
  - 5. Are there any specifications for the type of device my child may bring to school?**
    - Buying a computer is a personal choice. Ultimately each person will need to choose the device that works best for his/her child.
    - Lessons where a device is to be used will be based on Internet access, so the only hardware requirement is the ability to connect the device to the Miras Wi-Fi access points.
  - 6. Can my child use an iPad or Android tablet?**
    - Any type of tablet, netbook or laptop can be used.
    - Whichever you choose, the device must be able to connect to the Miras Wi-Fi.
  - 7. What software will be needed on my child's computer?**
    - We recommend that the device has anti-virus protection installed where required.
    - No other software needs to be purchased. Student school email accounts give students access to Microsoft 365 online applications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, etc), plus OneDrive storage.

## 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 updates to personal devices?**
  - Students and their families are responsible for their personal computing devices at all times.
  - Miras 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 your child brings to school?**
  - Families must stress the responsibilities their children have when bringing their own computing devices to school. Any devices they bring to school are their responsibility.
  - Miras takes no responsibility to search for lost or stolen devices, nor is there any assumption of financial responsibility by Miras for damaged, lost or stolen personal computing devices.

**4. Will the family need to have Internet access at home?**

- It would be helpful to have some form of Internet access at home to allow your child to make full use of Internet-based resources and to access any online platforms that the school uses.

**5. Does Miras suggest any other considerations?**

- It may be wise to acquire theft or hazard insurance.
- If purchasing a new device, purchase of an extended warranty should be considered.
- Students are encouraged to keep their device in their locker for the safe storage of personal items in school during the day. Storage in school for longer periods of time is not advised (overnight, weekend, etc.).

## Other information?

**1. How will my child's education differ if the family does not have an Internet-connected device to bring to school?**

- If your child does not have a device during the initial transition phase of the policy, we will do our utmost to ensure that no child's learning experience or academic performance is affected.
- Many lessons are collaborative, allowing students to work together, sharing information accessed through personal devices. In these first few months of the policy, individual students may use computers and other devices located in the class rooms and the library.

**2. Will my child need to have a signed Acceptable Use Policy on file?**

- Yes. In order for Miras to supervise the use of the computer network and the Internet, the Acceptable Use Policy must be read and the form signed by parents and students at the start of the school year.
- Details of the Acceptable Use Policy and a copy of the form are provided in the Student-Parent Handbook.

**3. When can my child use the device at school?**

- Students may use their devices in class as instructed by the teacher. It is not expected that a teacher will need students to bring electronic devices every day.
- Students may use their devices during study lessons (IB Diploma only), during break and after school, and when in the library.

**4. Will my child be expected to use the device both at school and at home?**

- Just as with traditional assignments, some assignments may need to be completed at home as part of homework. Students can be given access to a computer in school if a device malfunctions or is not available for use at home.

**5. Where will my child's work be stored?**

- Students can store documents online through their school email account, which provides access to Microsoft Office 365 storage (OneDrive).
- The use of a portable flash disk is recommended as a backup, and for when there is difficulty connecting to Internet services.

**6. Will students be able to print documents from their device in school?**

- Students will not be able to access printers at Miras from their personal computing devices.
- Miras will accept electronic delivery of documents through email or other online methods.
- Students at Miras are encouraged to conserve paper resources at school and at home.

## Important

### 1. Where electronic devices may be used in Miras:

- The table below defines where student's electronic devices may be used in Miras.

Location	Laptop, Netbook, Tablet	Mobile Phone, Smart Phone	MP3 Player	eReader
Classroom	As directed by the teacher	As directed by the teacher	As directed by the teacher	As directed by the teacher
Corridor (Lesson & passing time)	No	No	No	No
Study Periods (DP only)	For educational activity	For educational activity	For educational activity	For educational activity
Meal times	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gym	As directed by PE teachers	As directed by PE teachers	As directed by PE teachers	As directed by PE teachers
Library	As directed by the librarian	As directed by the librarian	As directed by the librarian	As directed by the librarian
Activity	For educational activity or student personal time	For educational activity or student personal time	For educational activity or student personal time	For educational activity or student personal time

### 2. All electronic devices:

- School personnel have the ultimate control of when and what type of electronic devices are used in the class room (teacher) and/or library (librarian).
- Moving between classes should be electronic device free.
- Students should not have their headphones/earbuds in when moving to/from class.

### 3. Mobile phones in the classroom:

- School personnel may allow students to use mobile phones in classrooms for class activities to access the Internet or other capabilities.

### 4. eReaders and MP3 players:

- Students may use these in any part of the school, except when moving to/from class.