



WYNBERG GIRLS'
JUNIOR SCHOOL

April 2023

BYOD INFORMATION

Technology is infinitely valuable; it advances student learning in a way that cannot be done with traditional teaching practices. It provides amazing tools and acts as a vast reservoir of information that has the potential of assisting our kids to excel at anything they pursue. Kids are always going to be at risk of the dangers of technology outside the classroom. It's our responsibility to prepare them for its infinite opportunities and challenges. At WGJS we are providing an opportunity to educate and better prepare our learners to use technology safely and effectively for education and to positively impact their lives. As a Microsoft and 21st century school we prepare our learners for the professional work environment using laptops. Developing their skills in Windows/Mac operating systems and professional Microsoft applications will benefit them in primary, high school, university and in the workplace. All learners are equipped with a Microsoft 365 enterprise license which gives them access to all Office 365 applications, a WGJS email address and access to Microsoft Teams education and 2TBs of OneDrive storage.

Microsoft Education

The WCED endorses a Microsoft environment for schools, being a government institution, we align with the department of education. Microsoft is dedicated to the education sector and provides an incredible number of resources, platforms, support and courses for institutions. Our teachers are continually focused on professional development and actively becoming certified Microsoft Innovative educators.

This is in line with being a 21st century school. Our staff unanimously prefer Microsoft services, applications and platforms for education, communication, administration and management.

Professional Development

The WGJS teachers all attend their DigiDen lessons where they get reminders and updates on how to use technology effectively. They are involved in the lessons together with Ms Blackhurst so that the best use of technology and innovation threads through to all learning areas. All staff are enrolled in the Microsoft Learn platform where they are encouraged to do professional development in their own time. Ms Blackhurst runs training for staff where she trains on the Microsoft tools as well as the latest tech-related resources for effective teaching and learning. Ms Blackhurst and other staff have attended Edtech related events such as SchoolScape, Innovate Edu, and school visits to keep up to date with the latest in EdTech trends. The staff at WGJS pride themselves in continuously upskilling themselves and taking all opportunities to further develop their use and understanding of EdTech in order to provide the best experience for our learners.

Learner Tasks

- School work, assignments and presentations with Office 365 apps.
- Accessing resources, communication and collaboration with Microsoft teams.
- Programming, educational gaming, video/photo editing and online applications.

Acquired Skills

- Typing, professional writing and etiquette (tone, formal approach and appropriate subject).
- Organization and productivity (planning, recording, file management, time management).
- Digital Citizenship (Online safety, responsibility and identity).
- Research skills (decerning credible sources, search engine optimization).
- Programming and computational thinking.
- Communication and collaboration.
- Enhanced learning experience with effective use and access to educational platforms.
- Responsibility (device care and maintenance).

Benefits of devices in education

- Learners will have access to many learning resources like the internet, educational tools, digital resources.
- Teachers can create more engaging and stimulating lessons using technology.
- Teachers can provide a more comprehensive educational experience with the use of technology.
- WGJS is implementing a coding and robotics curriculum. The desktop experience is best suited for web development and coding applications.

Device Requirements

- Provide optimal performance, efficient multitasking, reliability and long-term application and operating system compatibility.
- Serve learners for up to 5 years without any performance, compatibility and support limitations.
- Replacement parts readily available and reasonably priced.
- Upgradable components to improve performance or increase storage capacity if needed.
- Virus and device protection.
- Sufficient local storage with cloud synchronization.
- Optimal compatibility across desktop, web and mobile applications.

Additional information

- Devices close to the recommended specifications listed are acceptable.
- The recommended device retail pricing starts at R7500.
- Lockers will be provided for each learner to safely store their devices while not in use in the classroom. Safe storage is also available when learners are playing sports.
- Learners have at least 4 years of experience with devices by using the school netbooks and iPads from grade R to grade 4.
- Learners will be allowed to store the devices in their lockers if they need to lock them up overnight. (overnight storage at own risk)
- The entire campus is fitted with CCTV cameras that protect our learners, staff and property. We have 24-hour security with restrictive access onsite. Our number 1 priority is safety and security. However, no space is 100 percent safe, so learners must be responsible with their devices.

- Our internet and network is protected by a firewall designed for education.
 - o Active web and application filtering including safe search and parental controls.
 - o Malware and ransomware protection.
 - o Restrictive internet access.
- Windows devices comes standard fully licensed and has virus and device protection software built-in.
- The recommended devices are well priced alongside other mobile devices like iPads and chrome books in its specification range.
- Chromebooks, iPads and Android devices offer a feature-limited version of Microsoft Office applications. This is one of the reasons why we prefer Laptops or MacBooks in our BYOD environment.
- Our network supports all major 802.11 standards.
- The grade 5, 6 and 7 BYOD initiative is a huge success, we are confident in its success and development going forward.
- We offer exclusive laptop deals with our recommended supplier Digital Generation.

BYOD Device Specification

The recommended device specifications have been carefully formulated by a collective of IT and ed tech specialists as a campus of schools. This is to ensure that learners are equipped with the best devices to work and run the required educational applications efficiently without experiencing security, performance, reliability and compatibility issues. It is vital to ensure long term compatibility, support, reliability and performance as the devices are required for the duration of grades 5-7.

The device specs are based off of 3 years of running BYOD and aligning with the recommended specifications for our required applications. Closely monitoring and assessing the wide range of devices that are a part of the BYOD program. We have identified the strengths and weaknesses of the devices experienced in the classroom with learners and teachers. This includes compatibility, security, reliability, product support, user experience, performance, compliance, skills development and many other aspects. This is what assisted us to ensure that we recommended a device that would provide the best experience for learners as they push the boundaries enhancing their education with technology. We have visited many schools to discuss their BYOD programs, Edtech and IT environments. With that research we have developed an excellent Edtech program and IT environment for our BYOD programme.

Applications / Websites Run in between Grades 5-7

- **Microsoft 365 enterprise including Teams, OneDrive, Word, OneNote, PowerPoint, Sway etc.(apps and web versions)**
 - o Used for productivity and management of assignments, Reading Progress for personalized reading feedback, saving of documents/folders, presentations and presenting learner work.
- **Minecraft Education Edition (app) grades 3-5**
 - o Used to teach coding.
 - o Integrates with classroom content such as urban vs rural settlements, Ancient Egypt, math concepts like area and perimeter.
- **Spike Lego Education (app)**
 - o For use with our Spike Prime and Spike Essential Lego kits
- **Padlet (web)**
 - o Collaboration of ideas in class, learner feedback
- **Purple Mash (for grade 4 & 5 - web)**
 - o Learners are able to explore and enhance their knowledge in fun and creative ways on this platform. Purple Mash integrates with all learning areas.
- **Reading Eggs (for grade R-3 – web and app)**
 - o To practice phonics, reading and vocabulary
- **Photo and video editing (Canva - web)**
 - o Used for projects
- **Cami maths (web)**
 - o Math practice
- **Greenshoots (web)**
 - o Math practice
- **Mathletics (grade 4 & 6 - web)**
 - o Math practice
- **Code4Kids platform called TheLessonSpace (web)**
 - o for coding and web development (HTML, CSS, Java script, data manipulation)
- **Tinkercad (web), Autodesk fusion 360**
 - o 3D design and printing
- **Microsoft MakeCode (web)**
 - o For coding with Micro:bits
- **Typing.com (web)**
 - o Typing practice
- **Prezi (web)**
 - o Presentation platform
- **Kahoot/Blooket/Quizlet/Quizizz (web)**
 - o Online game-based quiz
- **Cura PBL platform (grade 5-7 – web)**
 - o For project-based learning and connecting content to real-world scenarios

Security

WGJS provides enterprise level security on all critical services highlighted below.

Malware and threat protection

Windows devices come standard with excellent malware and threat protection software built-in. This provides essential protection on the device locally.

Microsoft 365

Learners are provided with a Microsoft 365 enterprise account that provides them with the full suite of Microsoft 365 applications.

The following security is in place to keep learners protected

- Anti-phishing, anti-spam and anti-malware protection
- Custom security policies in place to prevent account intrusion from international threats.
- Permissions, reporting and monitoring in place to prevent bullying and other forms of malicious activity.
- Secure communication, collaboration and file storage.
- Advanced threat protection for emails, documents and attachments.

Firewall

WGJS has an enterprise level firewall providing the following security on the schools network. Parents are encouraged to set up sufficient internet security and parental control at home.

- Traffic scanning, analysis and encryption of all incoming and outgoing traffic.
- Ransomware, phishing, spam and unknown threat isolation and protection.
- Active web protection identifying and blocking malicious, explicit, and harmful content.
- Application protection identifying and blocking unwanted, illegal and high risk applications.
- Advanced threat protection identifying and protecting users from advanced sophisticated threats.
- Application, web and content control.
- Live monitoring, alerts and reporting of traffic, information and threats.

WGJS is serious about security. In the event of a security threat, the principal and parents will be informed immediately.

BYOD Recommended Supplier

We are excited to announce our recommended supplier Digital Generation, offering tailor made laptop bundles and accessories exclusively to WGJS parents for our BYOD program.

Link to the online store: <https://www.dg.education/product-category/wgjs/>

What DG offers

- A dedicated online store offering a selection of laptops, power banks, and accessories aligned with our device specifications.
- A support team to ensure on-site warranty claims are prioritised and resolved efficiently.
- Purchases via the online store or email. (delivery available)
- WGJS branded laptop bags.
- 3 year on-site warranty on all laptops.
- Credit purchases via Payflex (6 weeks) or MobiCred (1 year) available.

Our aim is to offer our parents everything needed for the BYOD program. Parents are not obligated to purchase a device via this supplier. The ICT acceptable use policy is available on the WGJS website.