

Published Date:	January 2025
The Policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly, in the light of any significant new developments. The next anticipated review date will be:	January 2026

Bring Your Own Device Policy

This policy is applied at GFM alongside our school's vision, mission and values. Interwoven with the framework of "The GFM Way", principles of High-Performance Learning; values, attitudes, attributes and A.C.P. Characteristics.

Technology and Devices

Devices and technology are now part of everyday life and are used as a useful learning tool in the classroom and at home.

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. GFM 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 (or similar tablet device). This is specific to Year 1- 4 and is designed around the work they will do and the apps/software they will access
- Year 5 onwards bring a laptop. In secondary school, students are only allowed a Chrome Device either purchased directly from School Google Partner or their own Chrome Device with License/MDM installed by School.

Chromebook Guidelines can be found on the link: [Acer Chromebook \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com/acerchromebook/)

In addition, Parent FAQ are compiled at the link: [Parents Site - Google](#)

There is guidance within this policy on minimum required technical specifications and safe use of devices.

Chromebooks in Secondary are provided with Wi-Fi Access only if an MDM/License is installed.

Chromebook settings are decided by GFM Management to ensure the safety of the students at all times and GFM Management has the authority to change the settings as and when required.

In case of a child leaving GFM, GFM License/MDM is removed from GFM

Vision

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Devices which do not meet the minimum specifications, usually older devices, may experience difficulties operating within the school or accessing live lessons/digital content.

Guidance for Purchasing Devices from External Vendors

In case a device is bought externally, below steps are required to be followed: -

- Purchase the License (3rd Tab in the LearnIT Website(Acer Chromebook (google.com)
- Take data backup if required
- Send the device to IT Team after you have received email from them. They will install MDM and return the device directly to the student.

Parents are advised to ensure the suitability of devices purchased from external vendors. The device should be comparable to or better than the Acer Spin 511. Please note that we do not provide recommendations for specific devices, and it is the parents' responsibility to check the warranty and return policies of any externally purchased devices.

For devices bought from platforms such as Amazon, Noon, or Desertcart, where return policies may be limited, it is the parent's responsibility to inform the IT Team to return device within allocated return period. While the IT Team generally aims to process returns within a week or earlier, delays may occur due to a high volume of devices or unforeseen staff shortages.

Acer Warranty

At GFM, Chromebooks are secured through LearnIT, ensuring that we offer the best specifications at competitive prices. These devices come with a standard 1-year warranty or a 3-year physical equipment warranty for added convenience. However, for any issues, parents are required to contact the service center directly.

Chromebooks Delivery

We work closely with LearnIT to secure timely delivery of Chromebooks. However, please be aware that delays may sometimes occur due to external factors.

Chromebooks order Cancellation

Parents can cancel an order at any time before the device is handed over to the child by contacting LearnIT directly for a refund.

Smart Phones:

We do not permit the use of smart phones at GFM. Although smartphones may meet the required specifications in many respects, the smaller screen sizes limit their benefit for reading and writing extended pieces, presentations are more difficult to edit, and their battery life tends to be shorter than that of a tablet. Smartphone apps such as Snapchat and WhatsApp are also prohibited for use by anyone under the age of 13 years by the UAE authorities and, as such, we do not wish to encourage the use of smartphone devices at school.

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Downloading apps/software

There will be occasions where the school requires students to have access to educational apps and software. As young children should not have access to accounts such as Apple Store or Google Play, we will require parents and carers to ensure apps are downloaded and updated regularly. We highly recommend you do not share these passwords with your children.

A full list of required apps and software will be shared with parents regularly.

For any further support or guidance on, you can contact IT Team at gfm_ithelpdesk@gemsedu.com and they will be happy to support families by accessing online accounts.

Device Insurance

At GEMS Founders 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.

GFM will not be liable for damage caused to any device brought into school. Protective cases for technology are encouraged. If using an Apple device, the activation of 'Find my device' is recommended.

In the case of Chrome Device, the Device is covered under Warranty as per the terms and conditions at the link

[Acer Chromebook - Warranty \(google.com\)](#)

In acknowledgement of the GEMS Founders School BYOD policy...

Students must agree to:

Seek permission from a member of staff to use their device and share for what purpose. If abused, privileges will be taken away. By bringing your device into school, you agree to abide by the above policy and guidelines. You further understand that any misuse may result in the loss of network privileges.

Parents and carers must agree to:

Follow all the details contained within this policy and support the school with BYOD.

Digital/E-safety training and support will be available throughout the year in sessions offered by the school.

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GEMS Founders School agrees to:

Ensure all networks and school systems are safe and in line with the GEMS Education ICT policies and practices. All members of staff will intervene and report any E-Safety issues and malpractices via the GEMS HSE portal to enable investigations to be carried out rigorously and in a timely manner. Any violation of this policy will be brought to the attention of senior members of staff where the consequences of these actions will be reviewed. The purpose of using BYOD is to enhance the learning experience.

Policy review date: July 2025

Please read this policy alongside:

- E-Safety Policy
- Parent & Student Cybersecurity Guide
- Acceptable Use Policy
- Data Protection Guidance
- Audio Video Conferencing Security Guide for Teachers
- Student Password Policy
- IT Online Security Guidance for Parents
- Mobile Phone Policy
- [GEMS Founders School BYOD FAQ's](#)
- [BYOD-Staying Safe online](#)
- [GFM Bring Your Own Device \(BYOD\) Policy Appendix 1](#)

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