

GEMS International School, Tropicana Metropark BYOD

In order to further enhance the learning experience and develop further skills, GEMS International School, Tropicana Metropark (GIM) uses personal digital devices in our school. Bring your own device (BYOD) allows students and teachers to bring their own 'digital devices' to school. All children must have a device. GIM has the right to decide on the type of digital devices that allowed. At GIM, the BYOD programme begins from Primary School. Students are expected to bring their digital devices to school, fully charged each day. Please note that you and your child will need to sign the GIM Acceptable Use Agreement prior to the device being registered to the GIM network. We have secure Wi-Fi coverage throughout the school. The table below shows recommended requirement for allowed digital devices.

Which BYOD device does my child need?

- Y1 to Y6 – iPad
- Y7 to Y9 – MacBook or Windows Laptop

Digital Devices Recommended Hardware Requirements

	ipad	Windows base laptop	Apple laptop
Operating system	iOS 4 and above	Windows 7 or newer	Apple MacOS X 10.7 or newer
Processor	Dual core 1.0 GHz cortex-A9 and above	Intel® Core™ i3 and above	Intel® Core™ i3 and above
Wireless	Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n, dual-band	Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n, dual-band	Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n, dual-band
Storage	16/32/64 GB	500 GB or more	500 GB
Battery run time	3 hours or more	6 hours or more	6 hours
Weight	437g	1.66 KG or lesser	1.66 KG or lesser
Memory	512 or more	4 Giga byte or higher	4 Giga byte or higher
Screen size	7.9 inches and above	13 inch and above	13 inch and above
Warranty	Extended warranty	5 years extended warranty	5 years extended warranty
Required Accessories	Protective Case and screen protector	Headphones, screen protector and notebook lock	Headphones, screen protector and notebook lock
Sample devices and brand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPad 2 ,iPad 3rd Gen • iPad 4th Gen • iPad mini (all generation models) • iPad Air or iPad Air 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dell • Acer • Asus • Lenovo • Toshiba 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mac Book Pro • Mac Book Air • Mac Book

Apple Laptops

Apple laptops are lightweight and with a good case can be incredibly durable. Apple machines are also known to be less likely to pick up viruses. Remember that when purchasing a BYOD for your child, then durability and longevity is an important factor and will prevent you having to replace it so soon. All purchased Apple products come with a free year's warranty, with an option to take 2-3 years extra at point of purchase. MacBook's are also user friendly and easy to use. Installing new applications and software is very straightforward and hassle free. Of course this is only a recommendation and you are free to choose what machine you wish. Apple MacBook Airs and especially Pros are usually a little more expensive, but they tend to last longer, so could save you money in the long term.

Windows Laptops

If you decide to purchase a Windows laptop, it would be highly recommended to buy one of the main brands for example, Samsung, Toshiba, HP, Dell, ASUS etc. Windows 8 or 8.1 or higher is fine, but please not the starter, basic or home versions, as these are not network capable. Ask the salesman that you intend this for an education setting in BYOD and that the operating system must be able to connect to a network. We also recommend that you go for as much RAM memory as possible, preferably 4 or even 8 Gigabytes at least is best. The Hard drive should be a minimum of 500 Gigabytes as students are often working with media and video and this uses a lot of memory.

Digital devices software requirements

* Windows home edition is not allowed to GEMS Metropark BYOD network

Basic software	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Web browser – Internet Explorer , Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari
Backup	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Word Processor, Spreadsheet & Presentation Package: Examples include Microsoft Office, Apple iWorks, OpenOffice, Google Apps.
Security software	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PDF Reader Adobe Acrobat Reader or compatible• Flash and Java (latest versions)• Cloud• USB• Students must ensure that their files are regularly backed up• Windows laptops – Microsoft Security Essentials• MacOS X laptops – ClamXav 2 Sentry• Or any other security software

GEMS International School, Tropicana Metropark BYOD FAQs

• Does my child need to buy new digital device?

If your child already owns a device that meets the requirements, they can bring that to school.

• What if my child's digital device lost or damage

Parents must should purchase insurance and warranty cover for BYODs, as they are not covered by the school.

• Will my child use digital device all the time

GIM has a balanced programme, it will be used as a tool for learning and will be used along with all the other tools available at school

• Will the internet access be filtered?

Yes. Internet access provided by GIM is filtered.

• Will there be technical assistance provided to access the wireless network or to assist with the use of BYOD devices?

GIM will provide wireless access throughout the School. There is no technical assistance provided for BYOD devices. Students will be expected to know how to connect their devices. However, staff will always be available to support any issues that arise.

• Does the school provide insurance for damage, loss or theft?

No. We do however recommend taking out insurance to cover these eventualities.

• How will these devices be used in the classroom?

Students will use their devices for a variety of activities which will vary from class to class. Activities may include (but are not limited to): complete in class activities, collaborate in real time, research for projects, access websites with curriculum-related content, keep track of classroom assignments, record journal entries and other approved instructional activities.