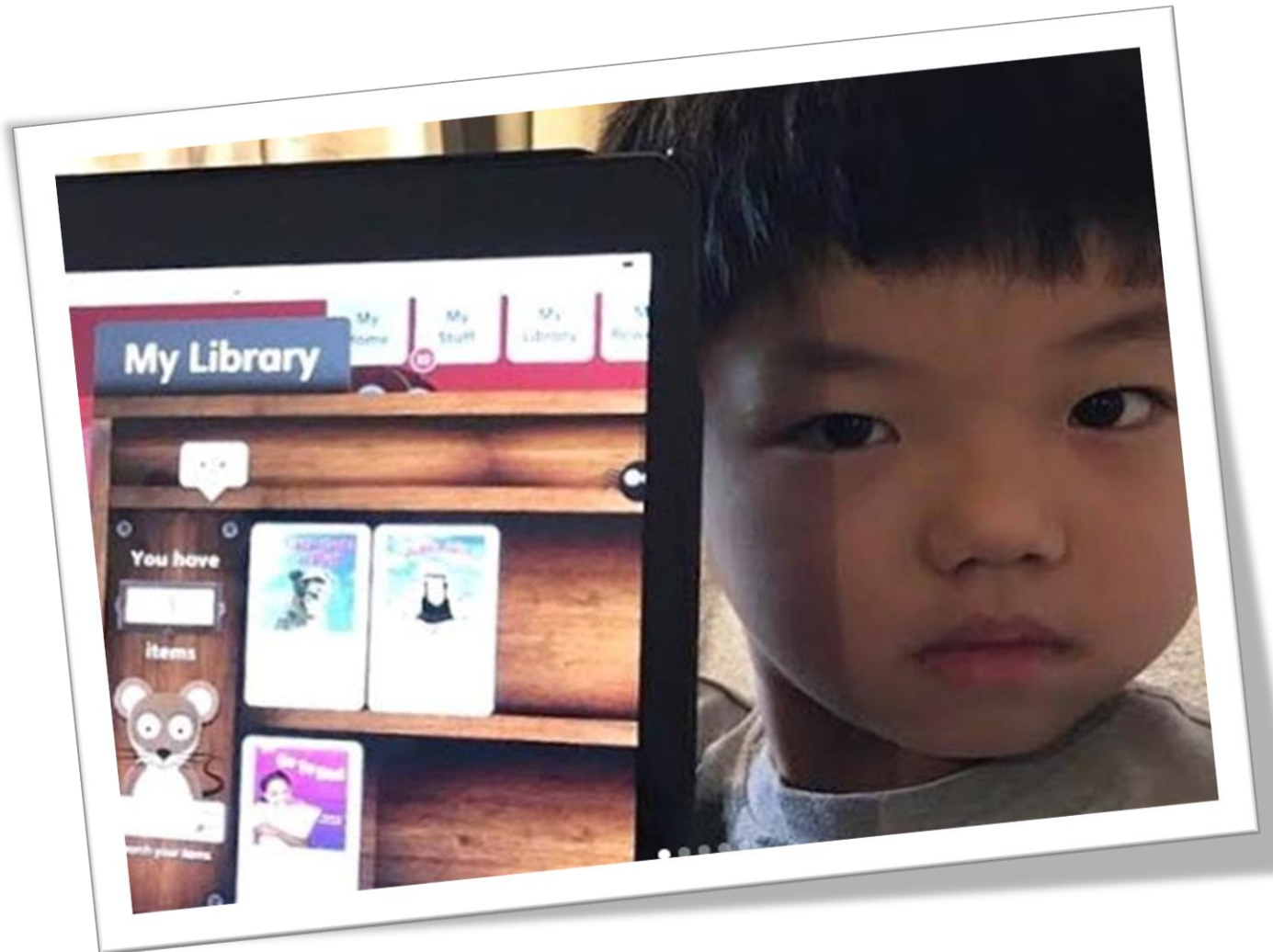




مدرسة ديرة الدولية
DEIRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
DUBAI FESTIVAL CITY

Devices for Digital Learning in our Primary School

2025-2026



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Overview

Our vision:

At Deira International School, we are committed to using technology as a powerful tool to enhance learning both in the classroom and at home. From the start of the 2025–26 academic year, all students in Years 1 to 6 are expected to bring an approved electronic tablet device as part of our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programme.

Technology allows us to make learning more engaging, collaborative, independent, and future-focused. It is embedded across the curriculum, not just in Computing lessons, and plays a key role in developing the skills our students need to thrive in a digital world.

This approach aligns with our school's vision to build an inclusive and high-achieving learning community—one that empowers students to reach their full potential, become lifelong learners, and develop into responsible global citizens. Through the meaningful use of technology, we aim to nurture creativity, innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving from an early age.

This guidebook outlines the digital learning expectations for Primary students and includes important information about device specifications, acceptable use, and frequently asked questions to help you and your child get started with confidence.

For further queries, please contact:

Mr Kieran Birrell

Whole School Educational Technology Lead

 kbirrell@disdubai.ae

Our Digital Classrooms:

At Deira International School, each child from Year 1 to Year 6 is required to bring a personal electronic device that meets the minimum specifications outlined in this guide. This device is a vital tool in supporting our digital learning environment.

Our iPad-First Approach

As an Apple-focused Primary School, we have adopted iPad as the core digital learning device. iPads are intuitive, reliable, and offer a wide range of creative, academic, and organisational tools that enhance teaching and learning across all subjects.

Apple provides a robust ecosystem that empowers students to explore, create, and collaborate. We believe creativity is not an add-on, but a fundamental part of how children learn, communicate, and solve problems. Our teachers are committed to guiding students through meaningful use of iPad technology, making screen time purposeful and engaging.

Please note: While we use iPads and Apple tools widely across the Primary School, we do not currently use the Apple Classroom or Apple Schoolwork apps as part of our teaching and learning strategy.

Instead, our digital environment is designed around a blend of Microsoft and Apple tools that are age-appropriate, accessible, and aligned with our curriculum and safeguarding protocols.

Microsoft Office 365

All students at DIS Primary have access to **Microsoft Office 365 for Education**, enabling learning to extend beyond the physical classroom. With apps like Teams, OneNote, Word, and PowerPoint, students can access learning resources anytime and anywhere.

Every student is entitled to **five free licenses** of the full Microsoft Office Suite through our school subscription, which can be installed on multiple home or personal devices. We strongly recommend families take advantage of this feature to ensure seamless learning support across devices.

A stable internet connection and the latest version of Office 365 or Office 2021 are recommended to ensure optimal access to our digital content and resources.

ClassPoint Pro

Our teachers also make use of **ClassPoint Pro**, a powerful PowerPoint add-in that brings interactive learning directly into lessons. It allows teachers to integrate quizzes, polls, and live response activities into their presentations, making learning more engaging and responsive.

ClassPoint Pro also enables teachers to track student understanding in real time, helping them adapt instruction and provide timely feedback. While students do not need Microsoft PowerPoint installed on their own devices to participate, they must have a charged and functioning device to access and engage with these interactive elements during lessons.



At Deira International School, our digital learning environment has become a cornerstone of how we support, extend, and enrich student learning. The development of our Digital Classrooms has been a significant achievement, enabling every student across all year groups to engage in learning that is secure, collaborative, and future-focused throughout the academic year.

The digital tools and platforms we use are carefully selected to promote independence, creativity, and academic excellence, while also ensuring that all learners feel supported and safe in their online interactions.

Below, you will find an overview of the key components that make up our Primary School's digital learning ecosystem for the 2025–26 academic year, along with explanations of how each element contributes to your child's continued growth and success.

Seesaw: A Platform for Creative Expression and Family Engagement

From FS1 to Year 6, Deira International School uses Seesaw as a key platform to support student voice, creativity, and home-school connection. While not all students have personal devices—particularly in the Foundation Stage—Seesaw remains a valuable tool for teachers to document learning, set tasks, and involve families meaningfully in their child's education.

Seesaw is designed to motivate students of all ages in a practical, engaging, and developmentally appropriate way. It provides a digital space for students to showcase their learning journey, reflect on their progress, and receive supportive feedback from teachers and families.

How Seesaw Supports Learning at DIS:

- Students can upload their learning using creative tools — including drawings, audio, photos, and videos — building a personal digital portfolio over time.
- Teachers assign activities that foster reflection, independence, and skill development.
- Students in FS and KS1 use Seesaw via shared devices in class, guided by their teachers.
- From Year 1 upwards, students with BYOD iPads may post independently under supervision.
- The platform is carefully moderated: all comments and posts are reviewed to ensure they are **positive, purposeful, and aligned with our values of respect and integrity**.



Feedback and Inclusion Support:

Seesaw is more than a portfolio — it's a communication bridge between teachers and students. Our teachers use it to provide personalised, constructive feedback, and encourage students to reflect on their own learning and that of their peers. Peer feedback, when appropriate, is encouraged in a respectful and guided manner.

Our Inclusion Team also uses Seesaw as a private learning space, where tasks can be tailored to individual needs. This supports evidence gathering, targeted interventions, and student-teacher dialogue in a secure, focused way.

Home-School Connection:

Seesaw strengthens partnerships with families by offering a real-time window into the classroom. Parents and guardians receive notifications when their child posts new learning, and are encouraged to celebrate achievements through comments and conversations at home. Families can only view and respond to their own child's work, ensuring both privacy and personalised engagement.

We have seen that students are more motivated when they know their efforts are recognised by both teachers and family members. Seesaw helps bring this learning celebration to life.



Teachers find or create activities to share with students.



Students take pics, draw, record videos and more to capture learning in a portfolio.



Families see their child's work and leave comments and encouragement.

Microsoft Teams – Y1 to Y6

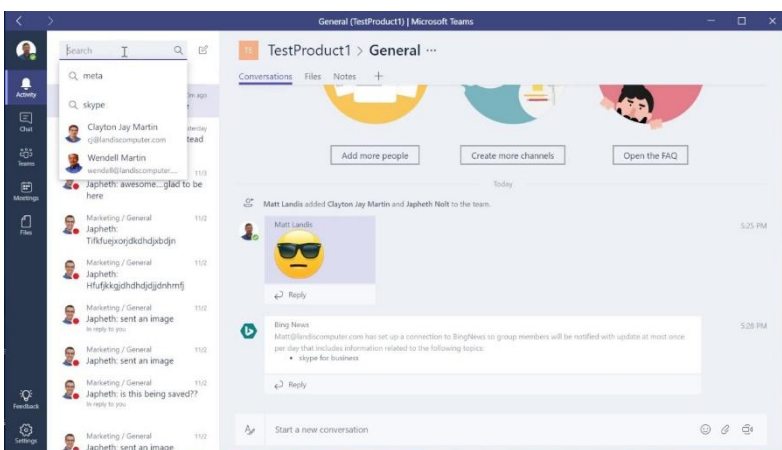
At Deira International School, Microsoft Teams serves as a central hub for digital learning from Year 1 through to Year 6. Much like a physical classroom, each Teams space is uniquely designed by the class teacher to reflect their subject focus, learning objectives, and the specific needs of their students.

Through Teams, your child will be able to access learning resources, collaborate with peers, and complete and submit work in a secure, structured, and supportive environment. The platform fosters independence and digital responsibility while reinforcing the skills your child will need to succeed both now and in the future.

Key Features of Microsoft Teams:

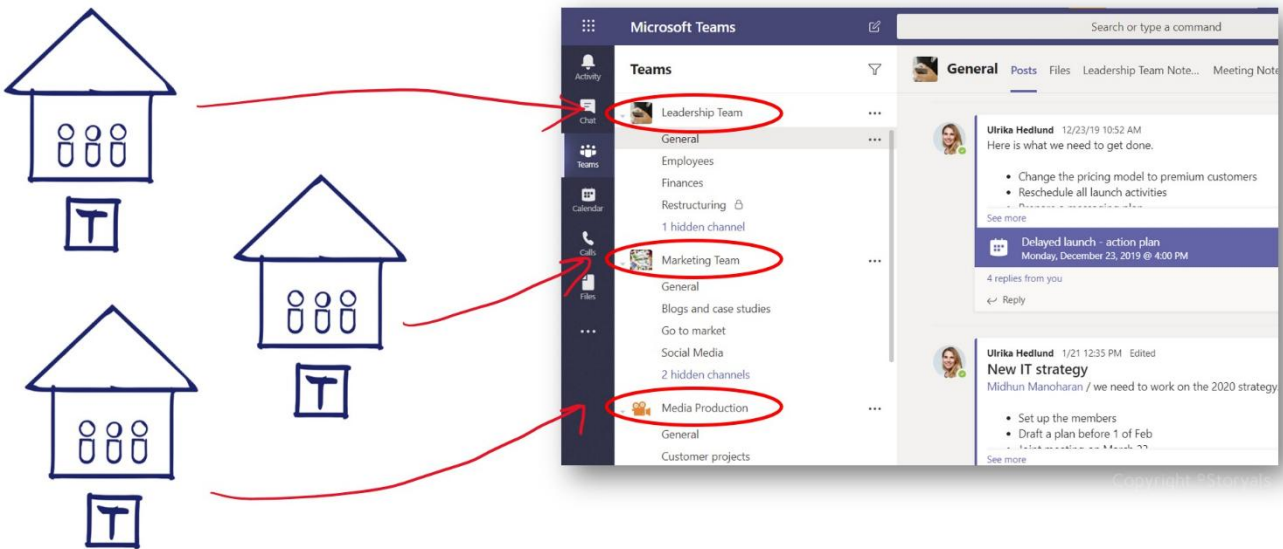
- Class-specific learning environments, each tailored to a subject or year group
- Secure file sharing and document access via OneDrive
- Interactive discussions and structured peer collaboration through moderated chat
- Integration with Office 365 tools such as Word, PowerPoint, OneNote, and Forms
- Access to recorded lessons, digital worksheets, and announcements
- Homework notifications and assignment submissions

Microsoft Teams not only enhances the way your child learns but also provides a consistent and flexible platform for homework support, revision, and ongoing teacher-student communication. It is a vital part of our blended learning model and complements in-class teaching to ensure continuity and accessibility.



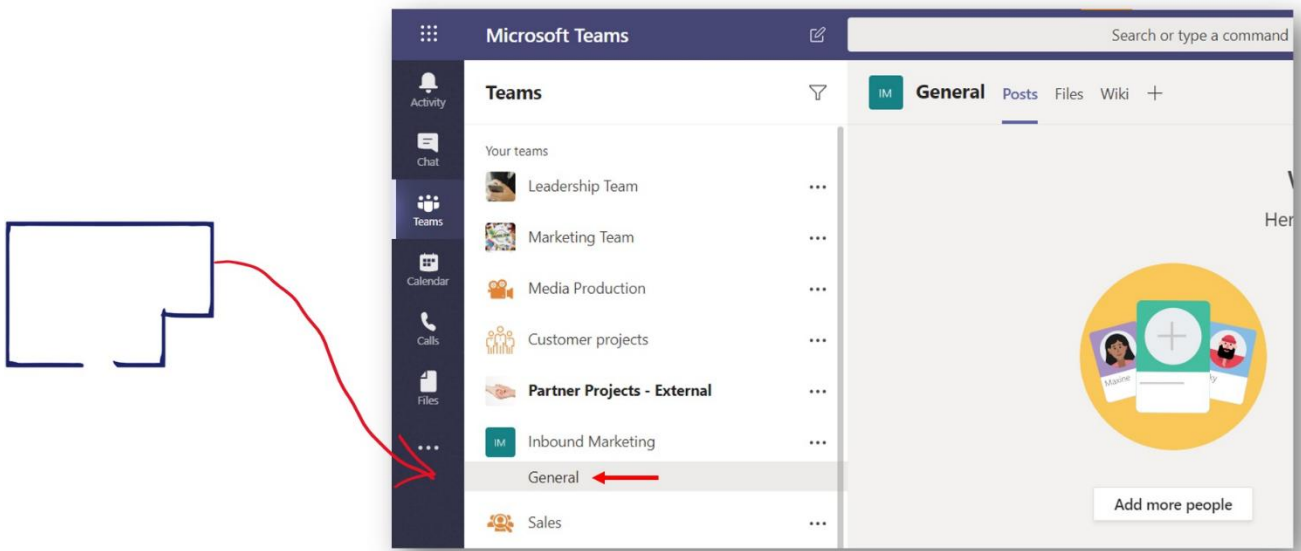
1) Think of a “team” as a house

In Microsoft Teams you work in different “teams”. You can think of each team as a house where you work together with others. Everyone who is a member of the house will be included in everything that goes on in the house.



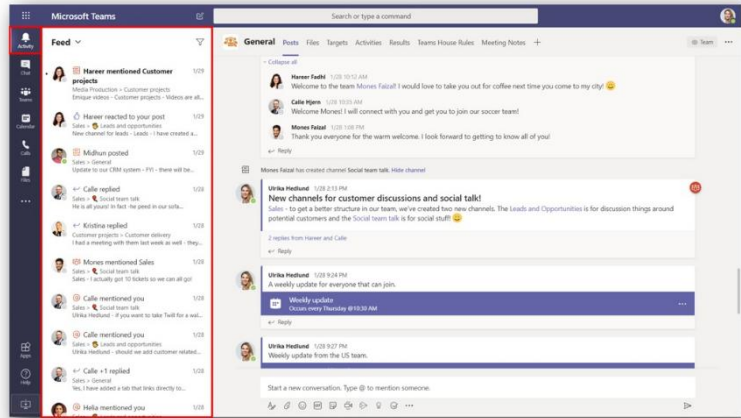
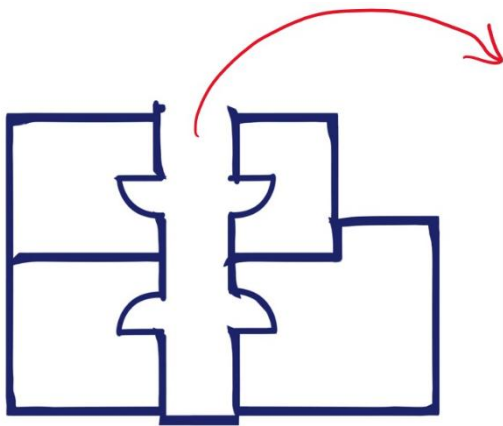
2) Think of a “Channel” as a room

When you first build your house it only has one room. In Microsoft Teams this corresponds to the “General” channel. More rooms (channels) will be built as your house (team) develops throughout the academic year.



3) Think of the “Activity Feed” as the hallway

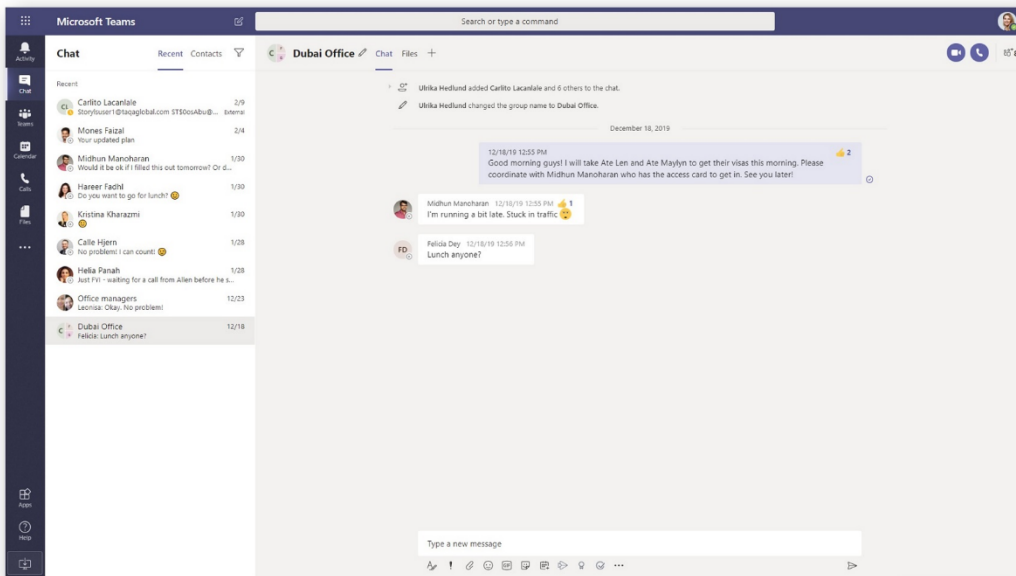
In the middle of the house you have a hallway. You can stand in the hallway, open the doors to the rooms you are most interested in, and hear all the conversations going on in the various rooms – without leaving the hallway!



Copyright © Stowak

4) Think of “Chat” as private conversations by the coffee machine

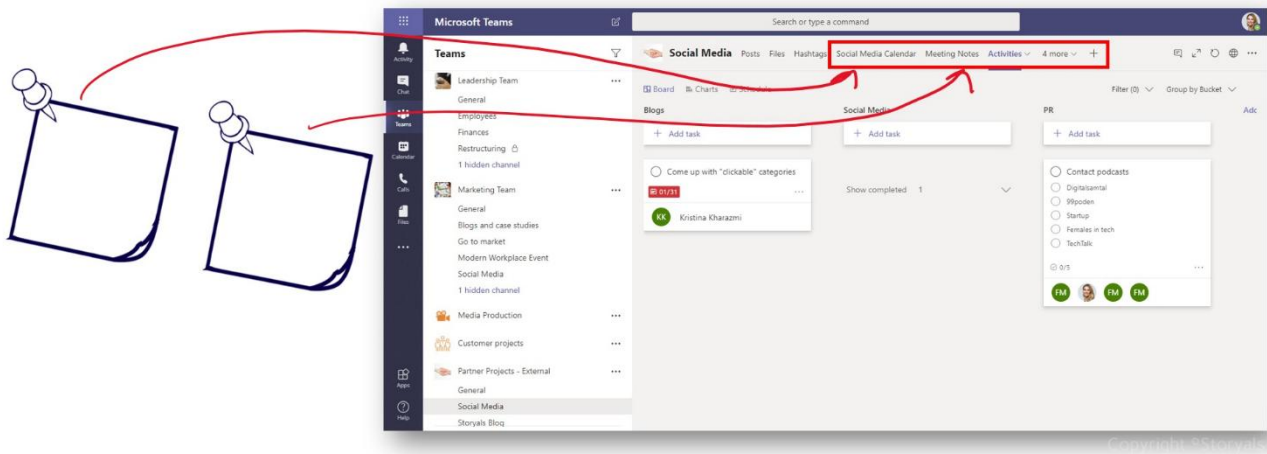
Sometimes you might want to have a private conversation with one, or a few people in your house. A conversation that is not heard by everyone else. In Teams you do this using “Chat” or “Calls”. Whatever you write or say here is only for the ones present. If you frequently have private conversations with a group of people, you can create a group chat.



5) Think of “Tabs” as posters pinned on the wall

In your various rooms, you can pin things on the walls. This helps the ones in your room focus on what is most important and it helps them find what they need. In Microsoft Teams this corresponds to “Tabs”. Here you can pin things of importance – such as Excel spreadsheets,

shared notes and other apps.



Microsoft Class Notebook OneNote – Y6

The OneNote Class Notebook is an app that helps our teachers set up OneNote in their class. This app will create a digital class notebook, which includes three types of sub-notebooks:

Student Notebooks — private notebooks that are shared between each teacher and their individual students. Teachers can access these notebooks at any time, but students cannot see other students' notebooks.

Content Library — a notebook for teachers to share course materials with students. Teachers can add and edit its materials, but for students, the notebook is read-only.

Collaboration Space — a notebook for the students and teacher of the class to share, organise, and collaborate in.



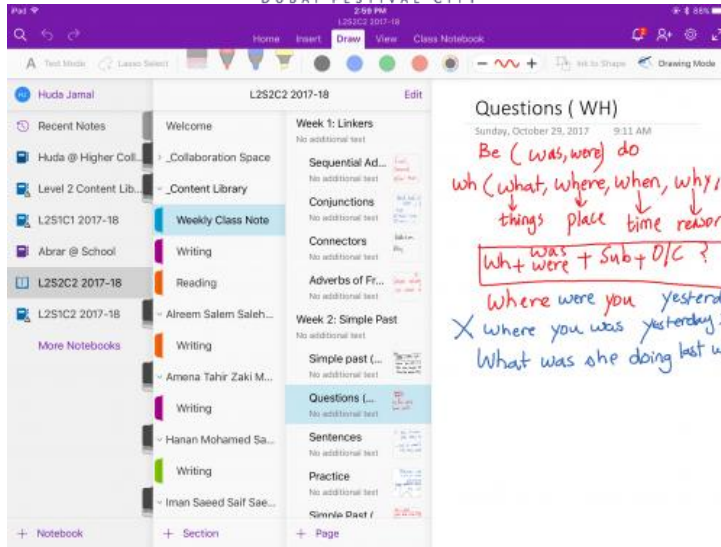
Transition from Primary to Secondary

The rationale behind the use of OneNote Class Notebook for our Year 6 students, is to ensure that we fully prepare and equip them ready for their transition to Year 7. They will continue to use many of the app based educational software, including Seesaw, so we still recommend that they come to school with an iPad device.

The use of OneNote Class Notebook will be supported furthermore, as the school now adopts laptop devices within their Computing curriculum for 2025/26.



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Century Tech – Y3 to Y6

The common thread of high standards of teaching and learning in our school is of equal importance in both our digital and physical environments. Our adoption of CENTURY technology as a platform to enhance independent learning is integral to the continued progression for our students. This platform is carefully monitored by the class teachers and material is adjusted for each child accordingly.

CENTURY is a tried and tested intelligent intervention tool that combines learning science, AI and neuroscience.

- Identifies gaps
- Addresses misconceptions
- Supports teacher interventions



Accelerated Reader – Y2 to Y6

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a computer-based reading management program for primary schools. It improves reading comprehension through personalised book selection, quizzes, and rewards. AR provides data-driven insights to tailor instruction, fosters a love for reading, encourages parent involvement, and builds lifelong reading habits. It also assists with library management, making it a valuable tool for enhancing students' reading skills and overall academic performance.



Accelerated Reader™

Magic Student by Magic School – Y1 to Y6

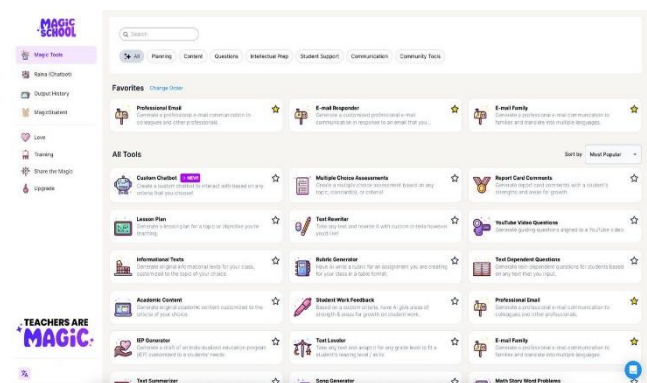
At Deira International School, we are proud to use **Magic Student by Magic School** as part of our commitment to innovative, future-focused learning across **Years 1 to 6**. This AI-powered platform helps personalise and accelerate learning by giving students access to a wide range of creative, curriculum-aligned activities — all within a safe, teacher-guided environment.

Magic Student empowers children to:

- Work independently on differentiated tasks tailored to their learning level
- Develop critical thinking, creativity, and communication skills through age-appropriate AI prompts
- Explore concepts in maths, English, science, humanities, and more, using interactive tools and visual supports
- Strengthen inquiry-based learning by encouraging curiosity, questioning, and problem-solving

How Teachers Use Magic Student at DIS:

- Assign targeted tasks based on classroom performance and learning needs
- Use AI to generate challenge activities or consolidation exercises instantly
- Monitor and review student work, ensuring that all engagement remains appropriate and productive
- Support students who need extra scaffolding, as well as those working at greater depth



A Safe and Structured Platform:

All student use of Magic Student is supervised and **aligned with our online safety policy**.

Teachers have full control over how AI tools are introduced and used in class. The platform encourages responsible digital behaviour and helps students begin to understand the benefits—and limitations—of AI as a learning partner.

Magic Student is more than just an EdTech tool; it reflects our school's vision to prepare students for a world where technology and human intelligence work hand in hand. It helps children take ownership of their learning while building the skills they'll need in the digital future.

Device Recommendations

Device specifications

Please find below the criteria for your child's electronic learning device.

All devices must:

- ✓ Have a camera
- ✓ Have a durable cover protector (House colours are recommended)
 - Red (Oryx)
 - Blue (Falcon)
 - Yellow (Saluki)
 - Green (Tahr)
- ✓ Have the child's name on the cover and on the lock screen
- ✓ Be fully compatible with Office 365 Apps

We have standardised the iPad models we use in primary school. This is to guarantee that all students have access to the same level of technology and can access learning content in the same way.

The device that we recommend is the **iPad(A16)**

- 128GB or 256GB Storage
- Striking 11-inch Liquid Retina display with True Tone.
- A16 Bionic chip with 6-core CPU and 4-core GPU.
- 12MP Wide back camera.
- Landscape 12MP Ultra-Wide front camera with Center Stage.
- Touch ID for secure authentication.
- USB-C connector for charging and accessories.
- Go far with all-day battery life.



You may compare this model against others here:

<https://www.apple.com/ae/ipad/compare/>

In order to use the device to its full educational potential, it is highly recommended that:

- ✓ A stylus is provided for tablets for writing and drawing (digital inking)
- ✓ There is both a front and rear camera for taking photos
- ✓ The device has a keyboard (attached or detachable)
- ✓ The device has the capability to run Windows applications (i.e. Microsoft Teams)

Purchasing Options

There are two options available for Deira International School parents when purchasing electronic devices for your child:

Purchase a discounted device from the school approved vendor [JTRS](#).

OR

Purchase from a store of your choice.

JTRS

With 14 years of experience in providing schools worldwide with tailored educational technology, [JTRS](#) have partnered with Deira International School to provide parents with discounts on recommended educational devices according to your child's learning needs. They have worked closely with many top schools and families in Dubai such as Brighton College, JESS and UAS to support the purchase and maintenance of learning devices.

Please use the link below to access the JTRS DIS Shop, which includes device options and a guide to their online store.

<https://deirainternationalschool.jtrs.ae/shop>



Warranty Information

Essential Information

We recommend that you get your child's device covered under a warranty that covers accidental damage, which is valid in the UAE upon purchase of the warranty and the device. It is essential that this warranty covers the entire school year.

Warranty for new devices

The recommended warranty for Surface devices is the Redington warranty supplied by JTRS, which can be purchased on the relevant portal at the same time as the device.



The warranty starts at the date of purchase

It covers accidental damage

It includes guided software support

It includes one device swap; in case the Surface cannot be repaired

It does not cover someone else other than your child using the device

It does not cover theft

Device Support

If you require support for your child's device, call Redington on 800 367873.

Redington will then lead you through their remote diagnostics and repair process over the telephone. If you require further aid, they will pick up the device and take it to an approved service centre. A replacement for your device is guaranteed within 48 hours. If a repair is required during a school week, please provide a receipt to the IT Management at school, where a back-up device would be provided until your child's device is repaired. You can also email Redington for support.

You would need details of the device and the warranty purchase to hand. The Redington aftercare portal can be accessed [here](#).

Initial set up of your device (Part 1)

This note is for parents who are providing an iPad that was not purchased via the JTRS.ae portal. It is the responsibility of the parents to set up their child's device.

Please ensure that:

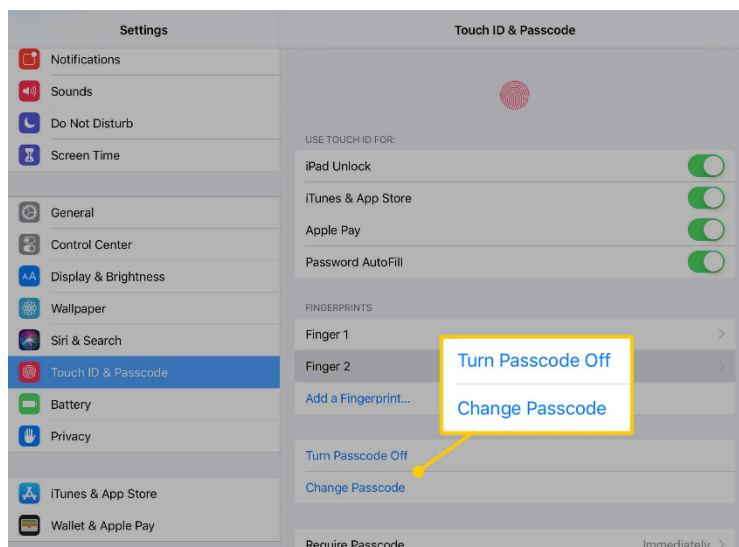
- You have recorded all passwords for important apps and games
- You know your personal Apple ID password to use once the iPad has been configured (NB do not share any of these details with school)

Sign out of iCloud and iTunes & App Store

- I. Go to Settings
- II. Tap on your name on the top left.
- III. On the right-hand side, tap Sign out.
- IV. A pop-up screen may offer to sign out of iCloud and Store, sign out of both iCloud and App Store.

Remove Passcode

- I. Go to Settings
- II. Scroll down to Touch ID and Passcode. It may just say PASSCODE
- III. On the right, choose Turn Passcode Off
- IV. Follow the on-screen instructions



Initial set up of your device (Part 2)

Backing Up Your Device

There are two main options for backing up your device. You can either back up to a local computer or to iCloud. Below you will find basic instructions for each of these options. Please speak with the Head of Primary Computing if you have further questions.

How to back up with iCloud

Before you begin please make sure that your device is connected to a power source and a Wi-Fi network.

Go to Settings > [your name] and tap iCloud. If you are using iOS 10.2 or earlier, go to Settings, then scroll down and tap iCloud.

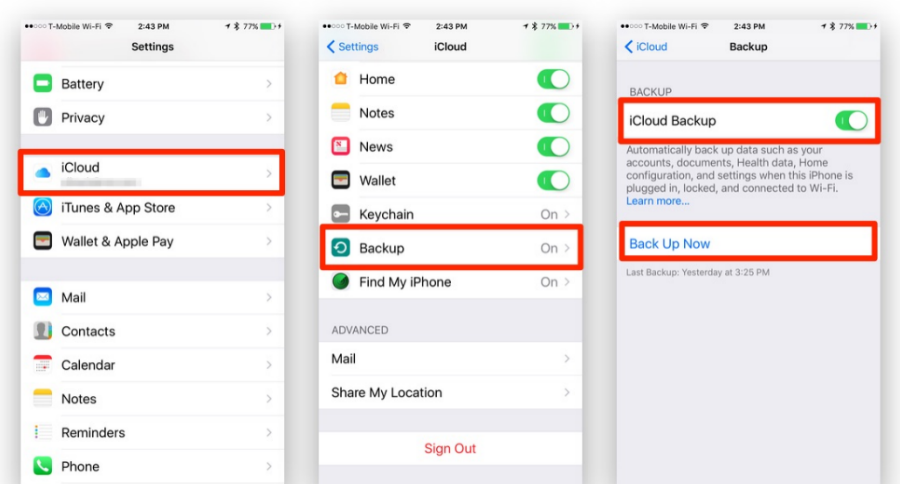


Tap iCloud Backup. If you are using iOS 10.2 or earlier, tap Backup. Make sure that iCloud Backup is turned on.

Also, make sure Photos is set to 'ON' and turn on any other features you may wish to back up such as Contacts, Calendar and any information from apps (you will see this if you scroll further down)

Tap Back Up Now. Stay connected to your Wi-Fi network until the process completes.

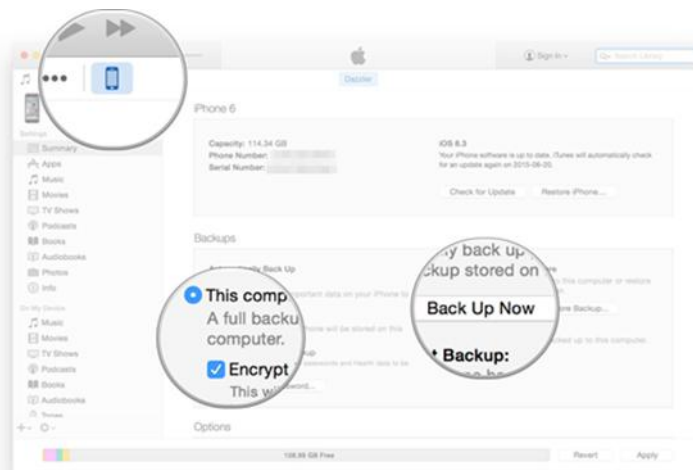
You can check the progress and confirm the backup completed. Go to Settings > [your name] > iCloud > iCloud Backup. Under Back Up Now, you will see the date and time of your last backup.



Initial set up of your device (Part 3)

How to back up with iTunes

- I. Open iTunes and connect your device to your computer.
- II. If a message asks for your device passcode or to Trust This Computer, follow the onscreen steps.
- III. Select your device when it appears in iTunes.
- IV. Click Back Up Now.



When the process ends, you can see if the backup finished successfully on the Summary screen in iTunes. Just look under Latest Backup to find the date and time.

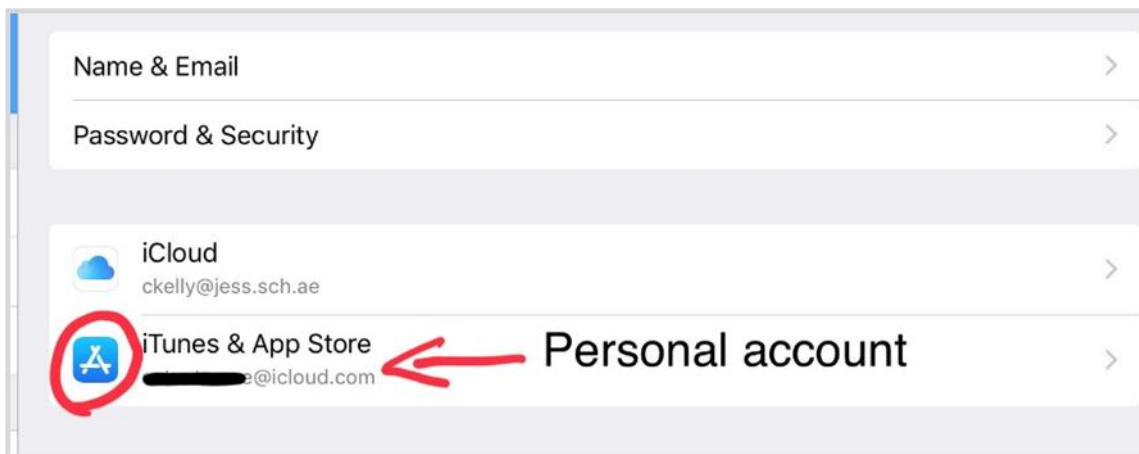
Please note that you can choose to encrypt your backup data if you wish.

Downloading Personal Apps

Please follow the following steps to download personal apps on your school device:

- I. Go to Settings
- II. Click on iTunes OR App Store.
- III. Sign in on your personal/family account.
- IV. Open iTunes or the App Store and navigate to the content you wish to download.

If you have any difficulties, please speak with a member of our IT team and they will be happy to assist you with this process.



Recommended Apps

We highly recommended that primary students download the following apps before September 2025. These apps will help your child access our learning environment at home and in school.

Times Table Rockstars (y3-y6)

[Times Tables Rock Stars](#) is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practice aimed at school children.

Each week concentrates on a different times table, with a recommended consolidation week for rehearsing the tables that have recently been practiced every third week or so.



Seesaw (FS1-y6)

[Seesaw](#) is a platform for student engagement. Students “show what they know” using photos, videos, drawings, text, PDFs, and links. It is simple to get student work in one place and share with families, and nothing is shared without teacher approval.



Numbots (y1-y3)

[Numbots](#) is an online resource where children can practise their number recognition, number bonds, addition and subtraction skills, so that these become fluent and they can leave their fingers behind.



Clips (y1-y6)

[Clips](#) is Apple's fun video editing app for iPhone and iPad. With it you can quickly and creatively add video, photos, subtitles, effects, title cards, and music, and share it with your contacts and social networks. To do that, you first need to get all the videos and photos into Clips



Pages (y3-y6)

[Pages](#) is the most beautiful word processor you have ever seen on a mobile device. Start with an Apple-designed template to instantly create gorgeous reports, digital books, resumes, posters and more. Or use a blank document and create your own design. Easily add images, movies, audio, charts and shapes. You can even draw and annotate using Apple Pencil on supported devices, or your finger. Pages has been designed exclusively for the iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch.



Keynote (y3-y6)

[Keynote](#) is slideshow presentation software developed by Apple. You can use it to create a well-designed presentation with. Simplicity in design, so you can make a presentation more easily.



Duolingo (y1-y6)

[Duolingo](#) is the most popular language-learning platform and the most downloaded education app in the world, with more than 300 million users. You can learn up to 28 different languages including English, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, German, Chinese and many more.



Microsoft Teams (y1-y6)

Microsoft Teams is a unified communication and collaboration platform that combines persistent workplace chat, video meetings, file storage, and application integration.



ScratchJr (y1-y4)

Coding is the new literacy! With [ScratchJr](#), young children (ages 5-7) can program their own interactive stories and games. In the process, they learn to solve problems, design projects, and express themselves creatively on the computer.



Flipaclip (y1-y6)

[FlipaClip](#): Cartoon Animation is an app that kids can use to create frame-by-frame animation. It includes a video tutorial that introduces users to the tools offered and walks them through how to use the app. The home screen includes two starter projects that serve as models and can be used to learn and practice the ins and outs of frame-by-frame animation. In addition to using digital drawing tools to create animated clips, kids have the option of adding audio, music, and images to the frames.



iMovie (y1-y6)

With [iMovie](#), it's never been easier to create memorable, cinema-quality videos and let your imagination run wild. Edit videos on the fly or explore iMovie on your Mac. Design your masterpiece from scratch or get help shaping your story with the new Magic Movie and Storyboards on iPhone or iPad.



GarageBand (y3-y6)

[GarageBand](#) is a fully equipped music creation studio right inside your Mac — with a complete sound library that includes instruments, presets for guitar and voice, and an incredible selection of session drummers and percussionists. With Touch Bar features for MacBook Pro and an intuitive, modern design, it's easy to learn, play, record, create, and share your hits worldwide. Now you're ready to make music like a pro.



PicCollage (y1-y6)

[PicCollage](#) – Make anything, to celebrate everything. Wonderful posters, cards, logos and much more. With amazing templates, stickers and interactive animation features. Encouraging student creativity with each new task.



Stop Motion Studio (FS1-y6)

Want to create movies like Wallace and Gromit or those groovy Lego shorts on YouTube? [Stop Motion Studio](#) is an amazing app to create terrific stop action movies with a whole host of unique features. Like the frame-by-frame editor, the never get lost timeline and the cool sound editor.



Canva – (Y1-Y6)

At Deira International School, we use **Canva for Education** as a creative digital platform that empowers students to **design, communicate, and express ideas visually** across a range of subjects. Canva is an intuitive, student-friendly tool that supports everything from poster creation and infographics to presentations, videos, and more.

Why We Use Canva at DIS:

Supports project-based learning across the curriculum
Encourages creativity, communication, and visual literacy

Offers templates and AI-supported features that guide young learners through high-quality design

Enables collaborative work on shared documents, presentations, or digital portfolios

Prepares students for real-world communication and media creation



Canva helps students engage in meaningful, hands-on activities — whether it's designing a science poster, crafting a timeline for history, or creating a digital book cover in English.

🎨 Please ensure your child has signed in to Canva using their school email address to access their Education account. This will give them access to premium features and allow their teachers to guide, view, and comment on their work within a safe and managed environment.

Minecraft Education Edition (Y1-Y6)

Minecraft Education is an immersive learning platform that combines creativity, coding, and critical thinking. It allows students to build and explore virtual worlds aligned to curriculum goals in subjects like science, maths, computing, and humanities. Students can engage in cross-curricular challenges, develop collaboration skills, and even learn basic coding using in-game tools like Code Builder. Minecraft Education helps bring abstract concepts to life and encourages problem-solving in a fun, structured environment. It is used in computing, STEAM, and enrichment activities to develop digital fluency and innovation skills.



Padlet

Padlet is a versatile digital bulletin board used across subjects to promote collaboration, creativity, and idea sharing. Students can post text, images, links, voice notes, and videos to class Padlets, which are often used for brainstorming, reflecting, or showcasing group work. It's a safe, teacher-moderated space that supports collaborative learning and encourages students to express their thoughts in flexible, creative ways. Padlet is especially useful for visible thinking, group discussions, and cross-curricular projects.



Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneNote (Y5-Y6)

These core Office 365 apps support all aspects of student learning. Word is used for writing tasks, PowerPoint for presentations, Excel for data handling, and OneNote for digital notebooks and revision. All students receive a free Office 365 license as part of their school account.



OneDrive (Y5-Y6)

OneDrive provides cloud-based storage for all student work. It allows students to save, access, and share files securely, ensuring that their documents are always available, whether they are working at school or at home.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is BYOD?

BYOD stands for **Bring Your Own Device** — a learning approach used by leading schools and workplaces around the world. At Deira International School, BYOD means that your child brings their **own tablet** to school each day, which they use to support learning in a safe, structured, and teacher-led environment.

This approach helps students:

- Take ownership of their learning
- Use familiar tools to stay organised and engaged
- Access digital resources quickly and confidently
- Learn how to use technology responsibly and independently

BYOD is part of our commitment to preparing students for a **future where digital skills are essential**.

Why does my child need to bring a device?

In today's world, technology is a natural part of how we live, work, and learn. At Deira International School, we believe that education should reflect this — and prepare students for the future they're growing into.

Bringing a personal device to school allows your child to:

- **Access interactive, engaging learning tools** that bring lessons to life
- **Reinforce their understanding** of topics using trusted online resources
- **Collaborate with classmates**, share ideas, and present their work in creative ways
- **Learn digital responsibility and confidence** with a device they already know how to use

BYOD ensures that technology becomes a **seamless, meaningful part of everyday learning**, helping your child develop the skills needed to thrive in the 21st century — both inside and outside the classroom.

Where will the device be kept during the school day?

Your child's device is an important learning tool during lesson time. When not in use — such as during break, lunch, or PE — the teacher will ensure that all devices are **safely stored in a secure cupboard or designated classroom area**.

Students are responsible for bringing their device to school each day and **taking it home** at the end of the school day. This helps reinforce healthy digital habits and ensures that learning can continue both at school and at home.

We also encourage students to:

- Keep their device **labelled and in a protective case**
- **Charge it fully** before bringing it to school
- Follow class rules on when and how to use it responsibly

Who will ensure my child uses the device for educational purposes?

At Deira International School, we take a shared approach to ensuring students use their devices responsibly and purposefully.

- **In the classroom**, teachers closely supervise device use and ensure it supports the learning taking place. Devices are only used when directed by the teacher and for specific educational tasks.
- **Across the school**, our network has safety filters in place that **block access to social media, inappropriate content, and unauthorised websites**.
- **At home**, we kindly ask parents to support us by discussing proper digital habits and expectations with their child.
-

To guide this shared responsibility, please take time to review our updated **Primary Device and Digital Citizenship Policy – 2025–26**. This document outlines clear expectations and provides guidance on how we work together to help students become respectful and responsible digital citizens.

Will I have to download expensive apps?

No — we understand that cost matters, and we've planned carefully to keep things accessible.

Throughout the year, teachers may recommend certain apps to support learning, but **most of these are free or low-cost**, and any recommendations will be directly linked to what your child will use in class.

We will **never ask you to purchase apps that aren't essential** for your child's learning experience. If a paid app is ever suggested, it will come with a clear explanation and always remain optional unless provided by the school.

You'll also receive a recommended apps list at the start of term so you can set your child's device up confidently.

Will my child miss out on learning if they do not bring a device?

No — your child will still be supported in their learning, and we will ensure they are included in all classroom activities. **School iPads** are available to use when needed, so no child is ever left behind.

However, joining the **BYOD programme** means your child can:

- Use a device they're already comfortable with
- Access learning tools quickly and independently
- Continue work at home without interruption
- Have consistent access to apps, files, and personalised settings

While a school device may be shared or limited in availability, **BYOD ensures a smoother, more flexible learning experience** with fewer barriers to engagement and creativity.

Will my child be able to use a school iPad if they forget to bring in their own device?

Yes — if your child forgets their device, they may be able to **borrow a school iPad** for the day.

However, this is **subject to availability** and managed through our school's booking system on a **first come, first served basis**.

To avoid disruption to learning and ensure consistency, we strongly encourage all students to:

- Bring their fully charged device each day
- Store it securely in a labelled case
- Pack it as part of their daily school routine

Borrowed devices are intended as a backup option, and regular participation in our **BYOD programme** provides the most consistent and personalised learning experience for your child.

If I have already purchased an older version of an iPad, will my child be allowed to use that device in school?

Yes — if your child already has an older version of an iPad, they are absolutely welcome to use it at school, as long as it still functions well and supports the apps we use for learning. Our recommended device list is simply a **guideline based on the best available models at the time of policy creation**. It's not mandatory.

We understand that families may already own a device, and we fully support making use of what you have — as long as the device:

- **Connects to Wi-Fi reliably**
- **Can run key educational apps** (like Teams, Seesaw, Canva, and others)
- **Has enough storage and battery life** for a full school day

If you're unsure whether your device meets the requirements, feel free to contact us for advice before the start of term.

Is it Apple iPad tablets only? Will my child be able to bring in another brand of a tablet? (e.g. Samsung, Amazon Fire for Kids etc.)

While students **can bring in other branded tablets**, we **strongly recommend using an Apple iPad** for the best possible learning experience at Deira International School.

Our digital environment has been carefully designed around the iPad platform because:

- Most of our teaching tools and learning apps are **optimised for iPads**
- Many apps used in lessons — such as **Keynote, Pages, Clips, iMovie, and GarageBand** — are **exclusive to Apple devices**
- iPads offer **greater consistency, reliability, and ease of use** across all year groups
- Teachers are trained in supporting iPad-based learning, ensuring smoother integration in class

Non-Apple devices may not be fully compatible with the tools we use, which could limit your child's ability to engage in some classroom activities. For that reason, we advise choosing an iPad if purchasing a new device for your child.

If you have any questions about device compatibility, feel free to contact us before the start of term.

Will BYOD make a difference to my child's progress?

Absolutely. One of the key benefits of BYOD is that it helps students become more **independent, confident, and future-ready learners**.

With their own device, your child can:

- **Access educational tools** anytime during lessons
- **Look up definitions, research ideas, and engage with content** more deeply
- **Express themselves creatively**, whether that's through presentations, videos, or digital storytelling
- Participate in discussions in ways that suit their personality — even quieter students gain confidence when using digital tools to share ideas

We also use powerful learning platforms like:

- **Numbots** and **Times Tables Rockstars** to build maths fluency
- **Century Tech** for personalised learning pathways
- **Magic Student by Magic School**, where students explore age-appropriate AI tools to develop critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills

These tools don't just support academic achievement — they help your child develop the digital fluency, adaptability, and innovation skills they'll need in tomorrow's world.

BYOD ensures they can engage fully with these experiences every day.

What about the traditional side of learning?

What about the traditional side of learning?

We care deeply about maintaining a strong balance between traditional and digital learning.

Your child will **continue to write regularly across all subjects**, with dedicated time to develop core skills such as:

- **Handwriting and presentation**
- **Spelling, punctuation, and grammar**
- **Note-taking and planning on paper**
-

Technology is used to **enhance**, not replace, these essential skills. In fact, we often use digital tools to support traditional learning — such as **online handwriting tutorials**, personalised feedback, and creative writing support tools.

Our goal is to ensure your child becomes a **well-rounded learner** who is confident in both traditional and digital environments.

Can my child bring a laptop instead of an iPad?

In general, we **do not recommend laptops** for students in the Primary School, as our digital learning environment is **designed around tablet-based learning** using iPads and educational apps.

However, in **Year 6 only**, we allow an **exception** for students who already own or prefer to use

a laptop. This is because Year 6 is a **transition year**, and students increasingly use Office 365 tools such as Word, PowerPoint, OneNote, and Forms in preparation for Secondary School. That said, even in Year 6, there is still a strong focus on **app-based learning**, creativity, and collaboration through platforms like **Seesaw, Canva, Magic School, and Minecraft Education**, which are **optimised for iPads**. Therefore, we advise Year 6 students with laptops to ensure they can still access required apps and understand that some classroom activities may be more suited to iPads.

If you're unsure whether your child's device is suitable, please contact us before the start of term for guidance.

How does the school manage screen time? I'm worried about too much device use.

That's a very valid concern — and one we take seriously at Deira International School. While devices are a powerful tool for learning, we are careful to **use them with purpose and balance**. Screen time in lessons is always **structured and guided** by teachers, and students regularly switch between digital and non-digital activities throughout the day.

We also:

- Prioritise **digital wellbeing** in our computing and wellbeing lessons
- Encourage regular **screen breaks** and movement
- Include **offline tasks**, handwriting, and group discussion as key parts of learning
- Promote **responsible digital habits** as part of our whole-school culture
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Our goal is not just to prepare students to use technology — but to use it **wisely, safely, and healthily**. We work with families to reinforce these habits at home and welcome open conversations about screen use.

Contact

If you have any questions about the **Devices for Digital Learning** programme or need support setting up your child's device, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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We're here to support you and ensure your child has a confident and successful start to digital learning at Deira International School.

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