St Mary
Star of the Sea College
I AM BORN FOR HIGHER THINGS

2027
YEARS 7-12

BYOD device specifications

A purchasing guide for Year 7 2027 families and all students in Years 7-12

From 2027, students in Years 7-12 will require a laptop to support the increasing demands of secondary school learning, providing greater flexibility, functionality and compatibility with the programs and tasks undertaken at St Mary's.
Choose a Windows laptop or Apple MacBook with a physical keyboard. Android tablets and Chromebooks do not meet these requirements.

01 Minimum and recommended specifications

FEATURE	MINIMUM	RECOMMENDED FOR A NEW LAPTOP
Memory	8 GB RAM	16 GB RAM or more
Storage	256 GB solid-state drive (SSD)	512 GB SSD or more
Screen	11.6-inch display	13-14-inch display
Battery	At least 6 hours advertised; must last the school day	8+ hours of school use; aim for 10+ hours advertised
Wireless	5 GHz Wi-Fi capability; 2.4 GHz-only devices cannot connect	Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax) or newer with 5 GHz support

02 Operating system and processor

Windows: A supported release of Windows 11. Windows 10 is not suitable for new purchases. Windows S mode must be switched off before College software can be installed. Intel or AMD processors are recommended; check with College IT before buying a Snapdragon/ARM Windows laptop.

Mac: A macOS version still receiving Apple security updates and compatible with College software and assessment tools. An Apple silicon MacBook is recommended for a new purchase. Check with College IT before installing a major macOS upgrade.

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PARENT CHECKLIST

Ready for learning

Choose a practical, reliable laptop and help your daughter arrive ready for the school day.

03 Every school day

- ✓ **Charge at home and bring the laptop fully charged.** Battery life must cover the school day. Advertised battery life can be higher than real classroom use.
- ✓ **Power adapters must not be brought to school** due to safety requirements.
- ✓ **Protect the laptop.** Use a padded case or sleeve, label the device and carry it securely.
- ✓ **No damaged screens.** For safety, devices brought to the College must be free of screen damage.

04 Software, security and assessment readiness

- ✓ **Microsoft Office is provided for students** through the College. Families do not need to purchase Word, Excel, Outlook or PowerPoint separately.
- ✓ **Keep security protections and updates enabled.** Back up schoolwork regularly and use a secure sign-in. Ask College IT before purchasing optional security software.
- ✓ **Allow required software to be installed.** A parent or carer should be able to approve installations. Follow College instructions for the current NAPLAN locked-down browser and other assessment software; compatibility must be checked before testing.
- ✓ **Check audio and accessories.** Ensure the camera and microphone work, and have headphones that connect to the laptop. Wired headphones are recommended; check whether an adapter is needed.

05 Before purchasing

Choose a lightweight device, ideally under 2 kg. Consider a three-year manufacturer warranty, accidental-damage cover and theft insurance; check excesses and exclusions. For refurbished devices, check battery condition and remaining software support. A laptop is required throughout Years 7-12, but one purchase is not guaranteed to last all six years.

Need help choosing a device?

Contact the College IT Helpdesk before purchasing if you are unsure about compatibility.
College enquiries: 02 4228 6011 | **Website:** stmarys.nsw.edu.au