



MAIDA VALE SCHOOL

Maida Vale School 'Choose Your Own Device' Policy

Date of issue:	July 2026
Renewal date:	July 2027
Individual Responsible	Magnus Bashaarat, Headmaster

Many students will have their own devices which they use at home to support their academic and social lives. Whilst there are significant benefits to having uniform and familiar devices across the student body and across the curriculum, Maida Vale School operates a 'Choose Your Own Device' scheme. We will, however, recommend devices for families to consider when they are purchasing a new device.

Maida Vale School expects new students to procure a Windows device (as opposed to Apple products for example Macs or iPads), we have specifically identified a Microsoft Inking Device to run Office 365 and Windows 10/11, this will best serve the needs of the students to take full advantage of the Microsoft digital ink technology that compliments the students' retention and comprehension through note taking, sketching and annotating. The only exception to this is where a Mac can run Windows (Parallels Desktop is an example of this).

Existing students can continue using Macs (and/or iPads) as we don't expect you to buy a new one over the summer but if you are upgrading in the future, we would like you to upgrade with a Windows laptop device. iPads are not allowed for new starters.

We require all students to bring a laptop to School. Students will not necessarily use their device in every lesson, but they are expected to make use of it every day, and they will need to remember to bring it to school, charged up and ready for use. Each student will have a laptop locker with a charging point in their Personal Tutor room and will be reminded to keep their device safely locked away when not in use, if they choose.

Students will receive thorough instruction and support in using the Office 365 suite of tools and resources as part of the curriculum. Parents will be sent a reference list of key skills in which we encourage Students to be confident before bringing their device to school for the first time. For example, switching on the device, charging it and checking battery levels, connecting to the internet over Wi-Fi, accessing their Office 365 account and saving to OneDrive.

There is no advantage to be gained in a student having a very high cost, high specification device for use in school. We recommend Parents consider re- allocating devices already owned within the household or purchasing something fit-for- purpose bearing in mind our minimum specification set out below.

Recommended Device specification

Feature	Minimum	Recommended
CPU (Central Processing Unit)	Intel Core i3or AMD A8	Intel Core i5 or AMD A9
RAM (System Memory)	8GB	16GB
SSD Storage (File Memory)	128GB	256GB
Screen size	10"	13"
Display resolution	1366x768	1920 x 1080
Battery life	4 hours	6 hours
Wi-Fi enabled	Yes	Yes

Please note that if you know that your child is likely to pursue Design Technology as a GCSE option you should consider the higher end of this specification, based on the system requirements of the design software used in DT. Please contact the Design Technology department if you would like more information.

Each device will also need the following:

- **Keyboard** (for tablets, this will most likely be attached as an accessory).
- A sturdy protective case

Please do not purchase accessories requiring a Bluetooth connection as this interferes with the remote connection to the audio-visual screens in the classrooms.

There are some features that can be helpful but are not required as standard:

- Touch Screen
- Pen tool
- Camera
- Headset (we ask that you do NOT supply speakers, as these are not suitable for use in a classroom/study environment)

We ask that you do NOT supply a Sim Card for 4G/5G connectivity. We support student access to Wi-Fi on the premises, which will apply the school's **web-filtering** protocols to the internet connection made by the device in order to ensure appropriate protection from unsuitable content. We recommend that you apply your own web-filtering at home using the "family" options available from your domestic Internet Service Provider. We will set "Acceptable Use" expectations and provide the students with safety advice in the same way that we do with mobile phones and school-owned computers, with students' internet safety as our priority.

Students are required to set up a password or face recognition **security** on the device to minimise the chance of misuse by a third party. Students must ensure that any **software updates** are regularly applied, to minimise the risk of system vulnerability. This is most easily achieved by regularly re-starting the machine to trigger automatic updates. We strongly recommend that the device is covered by **home insurance**, including away from home.

Finally, students must ensure that **anti-virus** software is installed and kept up to date. We recommend the free software available from Sophos Home or Avast.

Whilst our Group IT team are happy to provide advice and offer support should students be experiencing issues with using their devices at school, we will not have the **Administrator rights** to the devices and cannot guarantee that we will be able to resolve any issues encountered in using the device. We recommend that students have a **warranty** in place and that they know how to access support from the manufacturer or supplier should there be any problems.