

## ARIS Device Guide

At ARIS, we are committed to providing a safe and structured digital learning environment for our students. This Device Guide outlines the school's expectations regarding the use of student devices across different year groups to help parents understand which devices are required and ensure appropriate usage at home and school.

### Device Allocation by Year Group

Students use specific devices suited to their educational needs, ensuring compatibility with our learning platforms and security requirements. The specifications for devices per year group are given below.

[EYP -Playgroup & Nursery](#)

[EYP - Reception](#)

[EYP - Year 1 & Year 2](#)

[PYP - Year 3 & Year 4](#)

[PYP - Year 5 & Year 6](#)

[MYP - Year 1,2,3,4,5,6](#)

[DP - Year 12,13](#)

### Authorised Use & Restrictions

- **Devices Use for Academic Purpose Only:** Each student is required to use their device strictly for academic purposes. These devices **must not be shared with others**. Devices are to be used only when instructed by the teacher. **No student should use their device during pick-up time.**
- **No Unauthorized Applications:** Only school-approved applications should be installed. Personal or unauthorised apps, games, and entertainment platforms (such as gaming apps and streaming services) must not be installed on school devices.
- **No VPNs Allowed:** VPN applications are strictly prohibited on school devices to ensure compliance with the school's internet safety policies. VPNs also interfere with normal functioning of some of the Ed-tech apps used in school.

- **Screen Time Guidelines:** Parents play a crucial role in managing screen time at home to ensure a balanced and healthy lifestyle for their children. Excessive screen time, especially unregulated use of mobile devices, can negatively impact focus, sleep, and overall well-being. We have provided recommended screen time along with the device specifications, which parents can enforce at home.

To promote better study habits, students should not be allowed to keep their phones beside them while studying. The constant presence of a phone leads to distractions, reduces concentration, and encourages multitasking, which affects learning efficiency and memory retention. Research shows that even silent notifications can disrupt cognitive focus, making studying less effective.

Setting clear screen time limits and enforcing structured digital breaks can help students develop self-discipline, improve productivity, and foster healthier tech habits.

- **Safe & Secure Browsing:** Students are expected to follow responsible online behavior guidelines, with school filters in place to block inappropriate content.

This guide is an essential resource for parents to support their children in using technology responsibly while ensuring a balanced approach to screen time and digital learning. Thank you for partnering with us to foster a safe and productive educational experience for all students.

**For any further inquiries, please contact the IT department at [arisit@aris.edu.gh](mailto:arisit@aris.edu.gh)**

Playgroup & Nursery	
Type of Device & Screen time	Device Specifications
<p><b>Face to face learning:</b> All students from early years will be provided with sanitised tablets from school based on their lessons. This will be organised internally by the teacher and IT department within the school.</p>	<p><b>Virtual Learning:</b> In this scenario, parents will be required to have a device at home which the student will use to attend virtual classes and submit assignments assisted by the parent.</p>

Reception	
Type of Device & Screen time	Device Specifications
<p><b>BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)</b>  <b>Device Type: Tablet</b>            Students under this category will bring their own devices from home as long as they meet the criteria given on the right.</p> <p><b>Recommended Screen Time</b>            Only if required for homework</p>	<p><b>All tablets are either Samsung or Apple devices.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All tablets must have an electronic stylus, keyboard and wired earphones compatible with the make of your tablet               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9.5" minimum screen size</li> <li>• 3 GB minimum RAM</li> <li>• 256 GB internal storage</li> <li>• 5MP rear camera</li> <li>• Battery - 6500 MAh</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All screens must have screen protectors and tablet covers</li> <li>• Installed Device Control (<a href="#">Guide</a>): Please ensure there are no games or social media apps installed on the device used for school use.</li> <li>• Licensed antivirus software without which devices will not be allowed to use the school network</li> <li>• The devices should not have any SIM cards installed. In case students need to communicate with parents, they can do so by asking the homeroom teacher</li> </ul>
Year 1 - Year 2	
Type of Device & Screen time	Device Specifications
<p><b>Bring Your Own Device</b>  <b>Device Type: Tablet</b>            Students under this category will bring their own devices from home as long as they meet the criteria given on the right.</p>	<p><b>All tablets are either Samsung or Apple devices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All tablets must have an electronic stylus, keyboard and wired earphones compatible with the make of your tablet               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9.5" minimum screen size</li> <li>• 3 GB minimum RAM</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recommended Screen Time</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Screen time should not extend beyond 5:00 PM at home</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 256 GB internal storage</li> <li>• 5MP rear camera</li> <li>• Battery - 6500 MAh</li> <li>• All screens must have screen protectors and tablet covers</li> <li>• Installed Device Control (<a href="#">Guide</a>): Please ensure there are no games or social media apps installed on the device used for school use.</li> <li>• Licensed antivirus software without which devices will not be allowed to use the school network</li> <li>• The devices should not have any SIM cards installed. If students need to communicate with parents, they can do so by asking the homeroom teacher.</li> </ul>
<b>Year 3 - Year 4</b>	
Type of Device & Screen time	Device Specifications
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Device Type - Tablet</b></p> <p>Students under this category will bring their own devices from home if they meet the criteria for the minimum specifications given on the right.</p> <p>Please Note: If you are in Year 4 and intend to purchase a new one, we recommend that you take a look at the device requirement from the - Year 5,6 category to avoid purchasing a device in Year 5.</p>	<p>The minimum device specifications for this group are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All tablets are either Samsung or Apple devices</li> <li>• All tablets must have an electronic stylus, keyboard and wired earphones compatible with the make of your tablet</li> <li>• 9.5" minimum screen size</li> <li>• 3 GB minimum RAM</li> <li>• 256 GB internal storage</li> <li>• 5MP rear camera</li> <li>• Battery - 6500 MAh</li> </ul>

### Recommended Screen Time

Screen time should not extend beyond 6:00 PM at home.

- All screens must have screen protectors and tablet covers
- Installed Device Control ([Guide](#)): Please ensure there are no games or social media apps installed on the device used for school use.
- Licensed antivirus software without which devices will not be allowed to use the school network
- The devices should not have any SIM cards installed. In case students need to communicate with parents, they can do so by asking the homeroom teacher.

We highly recommend using an iPad Air with Apple pencil and keyboard for reasons already mentioned in the observations. See below the minimum specifications of the iPad Air 2022; you can buy an upgraded version based on your choice:

- 10.9" screen size
- 3 GB minimum RAM
- 64 GB minimum internal storage (students store their files online on G-Drive)
- 12 MP rear camera
- Apple Pencil and keyboard
- Tablet cover and screen protector
- Installed Device Control ([Guide](#)): Please ensure there are no games or social media apps installed on the device used for school use.
- The devices should not have any SIM cards installed. In case students need to communicate with parents, they can do so by asking the homeroom teacher

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensed antivirus software without which devices will not be allowed to use the school network</li> </ul>
<b>Year 5 - Year 6</b>	
Type of Device & Screen time	Device Specifications
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)</b> <b>Device Type: Laptop</b></p> <p>Students under this category will bring their own devices from home as long as they meet the criteria for the minimum specifications. <b>Students can choose <span style="color: red;">any one</span> of the following options</b> based on their skill set and their comfort level at using various technological platforms.</p> <p>Please note: If you already bought a device in Year 4 or 5, you can continue to use the device till the end of Year 6. From year 7 onwards, it is mandatory for students to have a laptop.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b style="color: red;">Recommended Screen Time</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b style="color: red;">Screen time should not extend beyond 6:00 PM at home</b></p>	<p>The minimum device specifications for this group are as follows (we recommend Option 1):</p> <p><b><u>Option 1: Laptop</u></b></p> <p>Apple Macbook Air with the following <b>minimum</b> specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Display 13.3” LED-backlit display</li> <li>Apple M1 chip, 8 core CPU with 7 core GPU</li> <li>8 GB memory</li> <li>Storage (256 GB)</li> <li>Macbook cover</li> <li>Licensed antivirus software without which devices will not be allowed to use the school network</li> <li>USB-C Hub ( With USB, HDMI ports and headphone jack)</li> <li>Wired earphones compatible with the USB-C hub</li> <li>Installed Device Control (<a href="#">Guide</a>)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p><b><u>Option 2: Laptop</u></b></p>

	<p>Windows based laptop with the following <b>minimum</b> specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 13” display</li> <li>● Core i3 10th generation and above</li> <li>● 12 GB memory</li> <li>● Storage (256 GB)</li> <li>● Laptop Cover</li> <li>● Licensed antivirus software without which devices will not be allowed to use the school network</li> <li>● Wired earphones</li> <li>● Installed Device Control (<a href="#">Guide</a>)</li> </ul>
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**MYP - Years 7,8,9,10,11**

Type of Device & Screen time	Device Specifications
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Device Type: Laptop</b></p> <p>Having built and honed their IT skills in PYP, students in MYP classes are expected to be independent and fierce users of technology. All aspects of learning in MYP are on a digital platform, and without an appropriate device, students will be severely disadvantaged in achieving their academic and personal learning goals. One of the learnings from the MYP e-assessment has been using language keyboards, as students are expected to be proficient language typers. Students from these year groups can procure their own devices. However, they have to strictly follow the specifications of the devices as prescribed by school. <b>Based on the requirements for MYP e-assessment use of laptops from Year 7 onwards is mandatory. Students can choose to bring <span style="color: red;">any one</span> of the options on the right</b> based</p>	<p>The minimum device specifications for this group are as follows (we recommend Option 1):</p> <p><b><u>Option 1: Laptop</u></b></p> <p>Apple MacBook Air with the following <b>minimum</b> specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Display 13.3” LED-backlit display</li> <li>● Apple M1 chip, 8-core CPU with 7-core GPU</li> <li>● 8 GB memory</li> <li>● Storage (256 GB)</li> <li>● Macbook cover</li> <li>● Licensed antivirus software without which devices will not be allowed to use the school network</li> <li>● USB-C Hub ( With USB, HDMI ports and headphone jack)</li> </ul>

on their skill set and comfort level with using various technological platforms.

### Recommended Screen Time

Year 7 - Year 9	Screen time should not extend beyond 7:00 PM at home
Year 10 - Year 11	Screen time should not extend beyond 9:00 PM at home  All learning at home should take place without access to phones, ensuring focused engagement with academic content.

- Wired earphones compatible with the USB-C hub
- Installed Device Control ([Guide](#))
- USB Keyboard for Language B ( As an example, students with Arabic as Language B will be using an Arabic USB keyboard for their language classes)

**OR**

### **Option 2: Laptop**

Windows-based laptop with the following **minimum** specifications:

- 13” display
- Core i3 10th generation and above
- 12 GB memory
- Storage (256 GB)
- Laptop Cover
- Installed Device Control ([Guide](#))
- USB Keyboard for Language B ( As an example, students with Arabic as Language B will be using an Arabic USB keyboard for their language classes)
- Licensed antivirus software without which devices will not be allowed to use the school network
- Wired earphones



Type of Device & Screen time	Device Specifications
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Device Type: Laptop</b></p> <p>Students in these year groups are fully independent and have ownership of their learning. Parents should be mindful that procuring a new laptop with good specifications at this stage will serve their wards through college. We highly recommend a new device purchase in Year 12 to facilitate learning in these crucial years and something that the students can use throughout their college life. Students from these year groups can procure their own devices. However, they have to strictly follow the specifications of the devices as prescribed by school. <b>Students can choose any one of the options</b> on the right based on their skill set and comfort level with using various technological platforms.</p> <p><b>Please Note:</b> Our recommendation for laptops for college use does not apply to students who wish to pursue specialised subjects like Arts, Engineering etc in college. Please refer to specific colleges for their requirements.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recommended Screen Time</b></p> <p>Since all books and resources are online, students may require extended screen time. However, as the <b>DP examinations are handwritten</b>, it is still recommended that screen time be limited to <b>9:00 PM</b>. Based on individual workload, students may extend their screen time as needed.</p>	<p>The minimum device specifications for this group are as follows (we recommend Option 1):</p> <p><b><u>Option 1: Laptop</u></b></p> <p>Apple MacBook Air with the following <b>minimum</b> specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display 13.3” LED-backlit display</li> <li>• Apple M1 chip, 8-core CPU with 7-core GPU</li> <li>• 8 GB memory</li> <li>• Storage (256 GB)</li> <li>• Macbook cover</li> <li>• Installed Device Control (<a href="#">Guide</a>)</li> <li>• Licensed antivirus software without which devices will not be allowed to use the school network</li> <li>• USB-C Hub ( With USB, HDMI ports and headphone jack)</li> <li>• Wired earphones compatible with the USB-C hub</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <p><b><u>Option 2: Laptop</u></b></p> <p>Windows-based laptop with the following <b>minimum</b> specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13” display</li> <li>• Core i3 10th generation and above</li> <li>• 12 GB memory</li> <li>• Storage (256 GB)</li> <li>• Laptop Cover</li> <li>• Installed Device Control (<a href="#">Guide</a>)</li> </ul>

All learning at home should take place without access to phones, ensuring focused engagement with academic content.

- Licensed antivirus software without which devices will not be allowed to use the school network
- Wired earphones

If you have any questions or queries regarding the devices, please refer to the FAQ below. In case your question has not been addressed in the FAQ, please use the following form to contact us: [Device Query Form](#)

## FAQ

### **Do we have to buy a tablet for our ward?**

Yes, all students starting Year 1 to Year 4 have to use a tablet and bring it to school every day.

### **I have two children enrolled in the school, can they share a tablet or laptop?**

No, all students must have their tablets/laptops for use in school, much like personal notebooks, bags, uniforms. Teaching and learning at ARIS is based on technology and it is imperative that students have their own personal devices based on the Device Guide Book.

### **Do I have to buy the devices from school?**

Parents can buy their own devices from wherever they find convenient as long as it meets the guidelines prescribed by the school. However, during the Taking Care of Business, a device supplier will set up shop on our premises and you can place your orders directly with them.

### **Do I have to stick to the guidelines provided by school?**

The purpose of anything ARIS does is to facilitate student learning and growth. The said specifications in the guideline are the minimum requirements which will help your ward achieve their academic and personal learning goals. Using the guidelines provided will make it easier for your wards to achieve their set goals.

### **Can my ward use bluetooth headphones or airpods?**

The school does not allow bluetooth headphones or airpods.

**Why is the school requesting licensed antivirus software for all devices?**

With the increased usage of the internet and its associated technologies, there are increased incidents of malware attacks and security threats. Although the school has inbuilt systems to protect all systems within the school network however, school networks are not the only networks students use these days. Licensed antivirus softwares is a must first step for protecting students from online thefts, data leaks and other malpractices.

**How do I install Device control on my ward's device?**

A guide has been provided here to assist you in installation of device control ([Guide](#)). However, in case you need assistance, kindly fill out the form here [Device Query Form](#).

**Why is the school promoting Apple products?**

There are many reasons why we recommend Apple devices as opposed to other devices, which include but are not restricted to the following:

- a) Apple devices have an extended lifespan and can be used on an average for 4-5 years.
- b) Apple devices allow for better control of student devices.
- c) In general, people find Apple devices to be intuitive and easier to use.
- d) All Apple devices naturally have higher specifications in comparison to their competing Windows based systems. In fact a high specification Windows based device is priced similarly to an Apple device in the market.
- e) Apple devices have better end-user experience due to their ease of use which allows more time spent by students engaged in learning rather than troubleshooting technical issues.
- f) Finally, ARIS is moving forward to be an Apple School and has already started the initiative by investing in Apple devices for staff.

**Who do I contact if I have a query that has not been answered in the FAQ?**

Please use the following form to send in questions/queries not addressed in FAQ [Device Query Form](#). We will continue to add to the FAQs as and when new queries arrive.