

Device Programme Options: Comparison

BYOD (Unmanaged) vs School-Funded vs Managed Bundle

This table compares three approaches to student device provision, assessed against the criteria that matter most for classroom delivery, safeguarding, and family experience.

	BYOD (Unmanaged)	School-Funded	Managed Bundle
Consistency in the classroom	Mixed devices, different specs, different OS. Teachers manage multiple setups per lesson.	Consistent if the department provided funding to schools to cover procurement, which they don't.	Every student has the same device, same spec, same software, same workflow.
Safeguarding & content filtering	No school control. Students can access anything. School has no visibility.	Possible if the school procures and manages devices. Requires in-house capacity or outsourcing.	Mobile Device Management(MDM) applied at deployment. Web filtering, app control, and security policies enforced consistently.
Warranty & repair	Family's responsibility. Varies by device age, brand, retailer. No guaranteed turnaround.	School-managed. Repair budget needed annually. Would need to have a full time IT support in the school at a significant cost. Not supported by DE	3 or 5-year warranty including accidental damage cover. Known repair route and turnaround. Loan device available.
Teacher workload	High. Troubleshooting different devices, OS issues, and software gaps during lessons.	Moderate. Standardised if procurement is consistent. Still needs in-house tech support.	Low. One device, one setup. Issues handled through a dedicated support route.
Equity of access	Unequal. Device quality depends on what each family can afford or already owns.	Equal only if funded. Cost on average per year group is over €85,000 not funded by DE	Equal. Same device for every student in the year group.
Readiness for AAC / project deadlines	No guarantee a student's personal device will be functional when needed.	Reliable if devices are maintained. Depends on replacement cycle and repair speed.	Reliable. Device is maintained, under warranty, and supported for the full cycle.
Setup & enrolment effort	Huge. Every device different. School must wipe, enrol, and configure individually. Multiple OS = multiple MDM tools.	Moderate. Batch setup possible if all devices are identical. Would need to pay for additional IT support	Handled by company before deployment. Devices arrive classroom-ready.
Cost to family	Family chooses cost of device and will need warranty and insurance to cover accidental damage.	DE funding does not allow for 1 to 1 devices. Limited number of shared devices only.	Family bears full cost. Bulk pricing applied. Payment plan options available.
Long-term sustainability	Devices age out unevenly. Programme quality degrades over time.	No guarantee of future funding amounts.	Repeatable model. Same process, same support, same standard each year.
Student experience after school	Student keeps their own device	Ownership unclear. Often devices must be returned.	Family owns the device. Management removed at end of programme. Device is fully theirs.