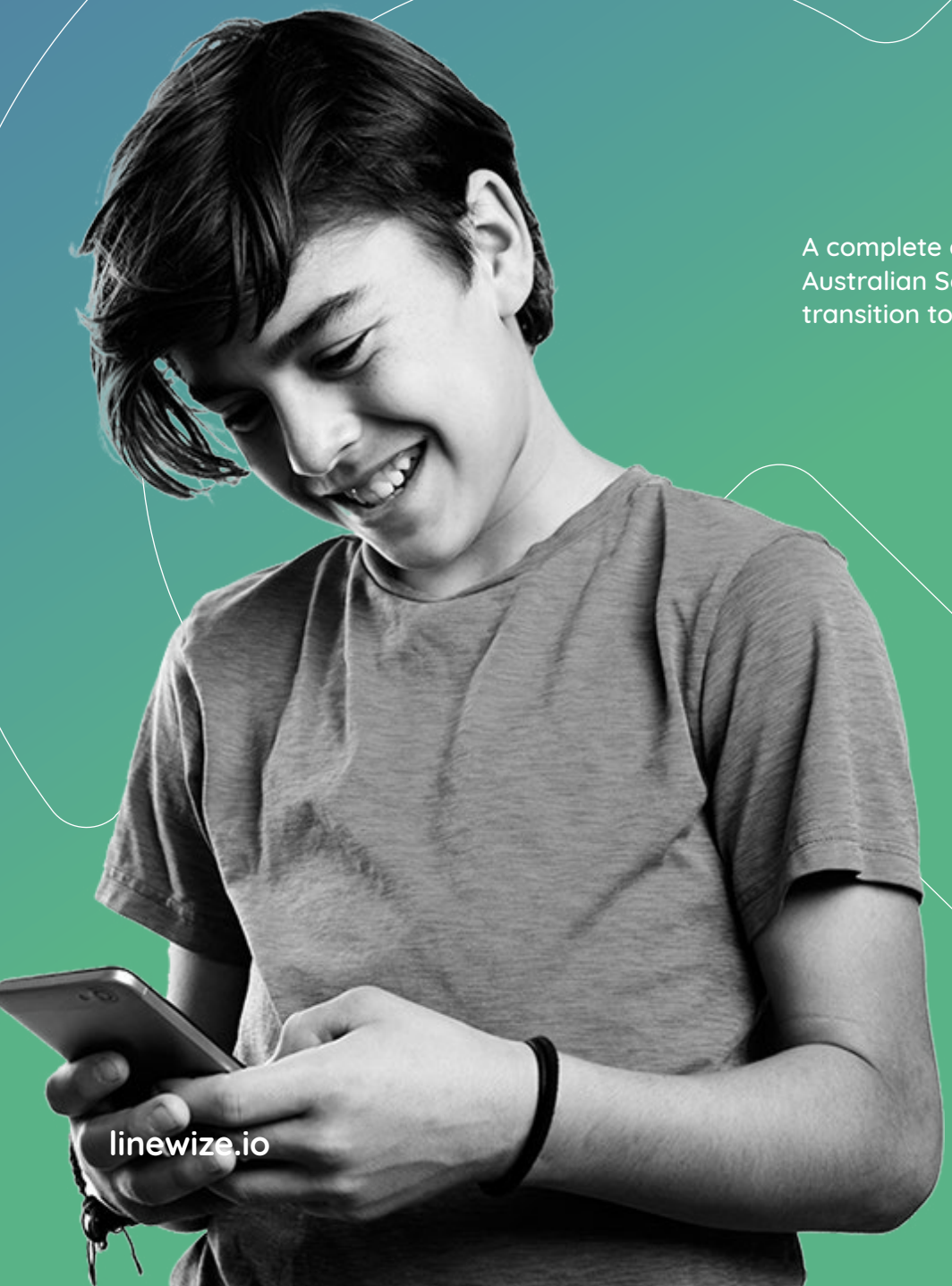
Linewize Insights

Unveiling the Pitfalls of Bring Your Own Device

A complete discussion paper for Australian Schools looking to transition to a 1:1 program.



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Contents

Introduction

Over the last 10 years, we've seen a huge change in the way we view laptops and other devices in schools.

They are no longer just platforms for accessing information, called upon periodically to support a students learning with the internet; they have become an essential part of almost every subject and are in constant use through the day. Recognising the need for digital platforms for learning, and without ongoing federal funding to support technology initiatives, many schools adopted the widely used program known as BYOD, short for "Bring Your Own Device".

Schools often opted for BYOD programs primarily because it had perceived benefits like leveraging students' familiarity with their personal devices and reducing costs for the schools. However, the hidden costs of BYOD programs can impact teaching, learning, support, and security.

These challenges prominently highlight socio-economic disparities among students, device incompatibility issues, increased pressure on IT departments, and most importantly a concerning lack of visibility into students' online actions.

As an IT leader, although safeguarding students may not be your primary responsibility, there is an increasing demand for IT to support and enable those who are responsible for student safety. So, if you are exploring a 1:1 program for your school or are feeling the gaps with your current BYOD program, this guide aims to help you make a case for why school-owned devices will help you achieve a higher standard of digital safety and wellbeing.

BYOD: What it Means and What it Doesn't

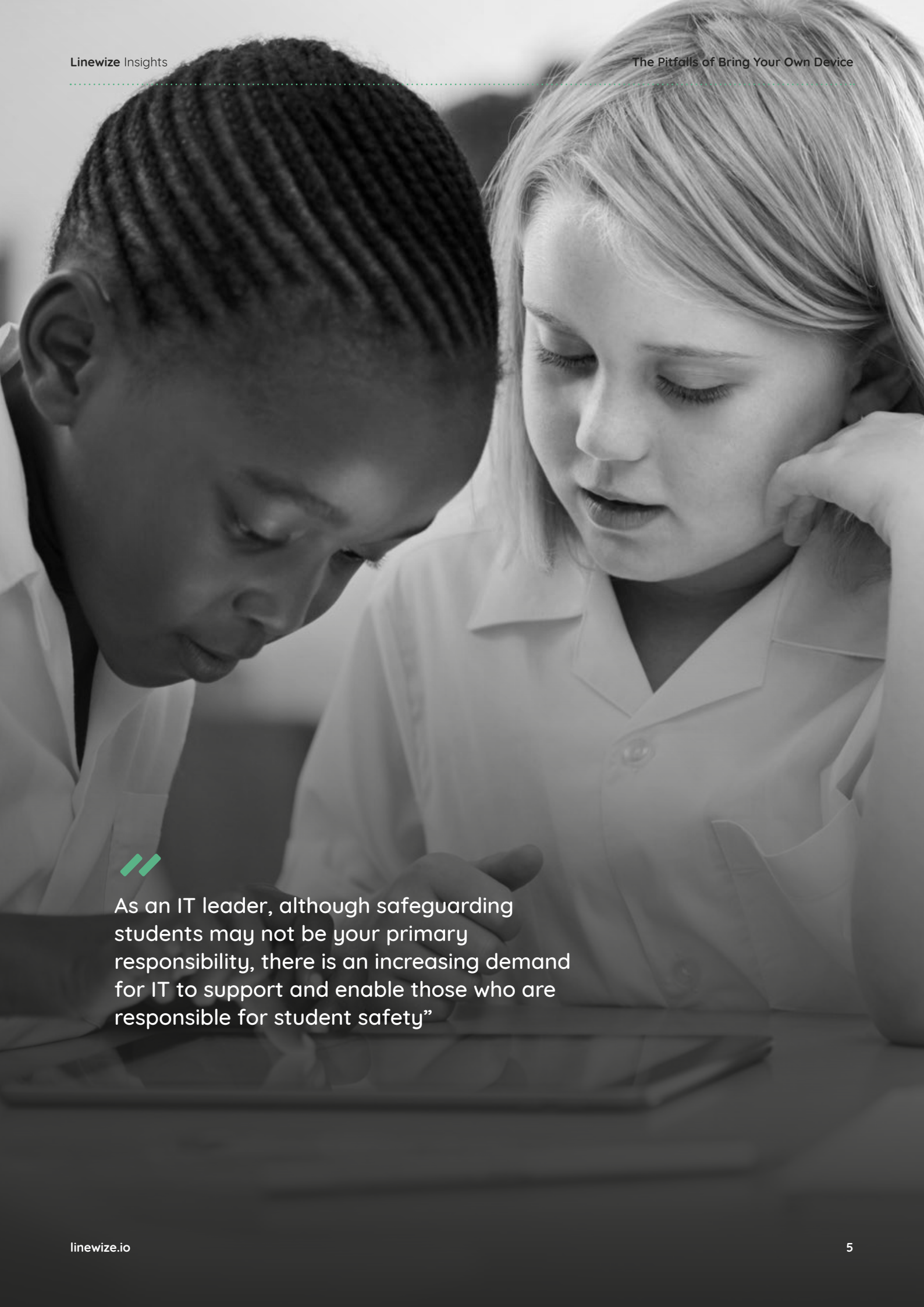
Before delving into the specifics, let's clarify the distinction **between BYOD and 1:1 programs.**

BYOD programs are designed to leverage students' familiarity with technology and minimise costs by allowing them to bring their own devices to school.

On the other hand, 1:1 programs take a different approach by providing each student with a dedicated device that is owned, managed, and supported by the school. Under a 1:1 program, the school supplies learning devices, such as laptops or tablets, to every student, ensuring uniformity and management over the technology used in the learning environment. These devices are specifically chosen and configured to meet the educational needs and standards set by the school. The school takes care of maintaining and supporting these devices, ensuring they're secure and are fit for purpose for all students.

An overview of BYOD and 1:1 programs

	BYOD	1:1 programs
Equity and Inclusion	Highlights socio-economic disparity	Provides equal access to all students and more benefits
Use of Devices	Often leads to misuse	Can be monitored to ensure no misuse
Compatibility	Various devices and software can cause incompatibility with integrations	School provided and managed ensures seamless integration
Technical Support	Can be slow and inefficient	Quick and streamlined due to set processes
Security	Heightened risk of privacy and security issues	Less risk of privacy and security issues
Monitoring	Monitoring while on school premises only	Monitoring in and out of school premises



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Downsides of BYOD Programs, What Leadership Needs to Know

1. Learning inequalities

One of the major downsides of BYOD programs is the socio-economic disparity it highlights.

Not all students have equal access to technology. Some may have newer, more powerful devices, while others may have older or less capable ones.

This discrepancy can impact students' ability to fully engage in digital learning activities and take advantage of educational resources. Students with limited access to devices or outdated technology may face challenges in completing assignments, accessing online materials, or participating in collaborative projects.

2. Distraction and misuse

Introducing personal devices into classrooms raises concerns about distraction and misuse.

Due to the lack of monitoring, students may be tempted to use their devices for non-educational purposes, such as social media or gaming, which can divert their attention from learning activities.

The misuse of personal devices can extend beyond distractions and impact students' emotional wellbeing. Cyberbullying, which involves the use of technology to harass, intimidate, or humiliate others, becomes a real concern. With personal devices, students can easily access social media platforms or messaging apps, providing a platform for cyberbullying incidents to occur.

44% of Australian young people reported having a negative online experience in 2021, this includes 15% who received threats or abuse online.

The digital lives of Aussie teens, eSafety Commissioner (2021).

3. Device incompatibility

BYOD programs often create a fragmented technology landscape in classrooms, as students bring in a variety of devices with different operating systems and capabilities.

This can create compatibility issues, making it challenging for educators to design curriculum and seamlessly integrate technology into the learning process.

Additionally, providing technical support for a wide range of devices becomes complex and resource-intensive, potentially impacting the quality of support and hindering effective classroom management.

4. Technical support challenges

Managing technical support in BYOD programs can be complex.

With a diverse range of devices, operating systems, and software versions in the mix, it can be challenging for IT departments to offer quick and effective support to students.

Each device may need its own troubleshooting approach, which places additional pressure on already stretched IT teams. Without proper training and resources to handle these varied technical problems, it makes it even harder to provide prompt support without causing disruption to students' learning.

5. Privacy and security risks

In an era that demands utmost protection of student data, relying on personal devices only heightens the risk of compromising their privacy and security.

Unlike school-provided devices, personal devices often lack the strong security measures necessary to protect student data from breaches. There's also a concern that students may unknowingly download harmful software or access inappropriate content, which can create cybersecurity vulnerabilities within the school's network.

Students may try to bypass network restrictions or access inappropriate content by using VPNs or personal hotspots. These technologies can enable students to evade school filters and firewalls, potentially compromising network security and exposing students to unsafe or unsuitable online content.

The Australian education sector saw a **17% increase in cyberattacks,** and an average of 3,934 attacks in July 2021, compared to the first half of 2021.

Upsides of 1:1 Programs: Paving the Way Forward

Transitioning to a 1:1 learning device program offers **numerous benefits that can address the pain points of BYOD programs** and lead to more effective educational and learning outcomes.

1. Equity and inclusion

Promoting equity and inclusion is a paramount goal in education, and transitioning from a BYOD program to a 1:1 program can be a powerful step towards achieving it.

By ensuring equal access to technology, personalised learning opportunities, and a secure digital environment, schools can create an inclusive educational landscape where every student has the chance to thrive and succeed.

A. Closes the divide

Transitioning to a 1:1 program promotes equity and inclusion by providing equal access to technology and digital resources for all students and educators. By providing devices to every student, regardless of their socioeconomic background, schools bridge the digital divide and ensure that every student has the opportunity to engage in digital learning experiences.

B. Ensures safety and security

In a 1:1 program, schools have greater control over the devices and can implement robust security measures to protect student data and privacy. This not only ensures the safety of students' personal information but also creates a secure digital learning environment that fosters trust and confidence among students, parents, and educators.

C. Promotes equal learning opportunities

With dedicated devices, students can access a wide range of educational resources and digital tools, to explore, create, and engage in personalised learning experiences. This increased access to technology fosters a more inclusive educational environment that caters to diverse learning styles and needs.

D. Fosters a culture of collaboration

A 1:1 program promotes collaboration and active student engagement by providing tools and platforms for communication, sharing, and group work. Students can collaborate on projects, engage in peer-to-peer learning, and develop essential skills for teamwork and effective communication. This inclusive and collaborative culture supports a positive learning environment where every student's voice is valued.

E. Creates an enriched teaching environment

Teachers benefit from a 1:1 program as it provides them with a consistent and reliable set of devices for instructional purposes. With a standardised technology infrastructure, teachers can focus on designing innovative lessons, leveraging digital resources, and integrating technology seamlessly into their teaching practices. This enables a more inclusive and dynamic teaching environment that caters to diverse learning needs.

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2. Safe in and out of the classroom

One of the advantages of 1:1 programs is their ability to contribute to student safety outside the classroom, the same way they are on school premises.

By providing students with dedicated devices that are owned, managed, and supported by the school, 1:1 programs enable enhanced safety measures and support mechanisms beyond the school premises.

Schools can implement robust security protocols, such as content filtering and device management, so that students are protected from accessing inappropriate or harmful content, even outside school premises.

3. Consistent student experience

By implementing a 1:1 program, each student is provided with a dedicated device that is standardised across the school.

This ensures a consistent learning experience for all students, as they have access to the same hardware and software configurations. It also promotes efficient collaboration, sharing, and communication between educators and students, eliminating distractions and frustrations that may arise from varying device capabilities in a BYOD environment.

For instance, in a 1:1 program, teachers can utilise classroom management software that allows them to monitor and control student devices during lessons, ensuring a focused learning environment.

4. Simplified technical support

With a 1:1 program, IT support staff can specialise in the specific devices and software used by students, resulting in simplified technical support processes and more efficient assistance.

With specialised expertise, IT staff can quickly troubleshoot, resolve issues, and perform device maintenance. An in-depth understanding of the devices and software in use, will allow them to provide prompt and effective solutions when students encounter technical difficulties. This ensures that students experience minimal disruptions to their learning.

5. Increased Visibility into Students' Digital Wellbeing

With the implementation of 1:1 programs, schools can gain valuable insights into students' digital wellbeing and behaviours.

They can get visibility of students' online activities, allowing them to keep a pulse on what students are doing and intervene as needed. With solutions like Linewize Connect, the world's leading solution for school-owned devices, schools can achieve a higher standard of digital safety and wellbeing across 1:1 programs.

Conclusion

In conclusion, transitioning from BYOD programs to 1:1 programs in schools brings forth a **range of benefits that address the limitations of BYOD**, with a primary focus on ensuring equity in student safeguarding.

The shift to 1:1 programs promotes consistent student experiences, seamless integration and compatibility, simplified technical support, equity and inclusion and fosters a culture of collaboration. 1:1 programs create an enriched teaching environment, and ensure student safety both inside and outside the classroom.

This holistic approach sets the stage for a more effective and inclusive educational environment that prioritises student learning, growth, and security.

Because when technology is integrated meaningfully and purposefully, that's when learning is enhanced.

> 1:1 programs create an enriched teaching environment, and ensure student safety both **inside and outside the classroom.**

Linewize
by Qoria

Linewize creates school communities that free our kids to get the best out of the digital world, while protecting them from harm.

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Qoria

Smoothwall is part of Qoria, a global technology company, dedicated to keeping children safe and well in their digital lives. We harness the power of connection to close the gaps that children fall through, and to seamlessly support them on all sides - at school, at home and everywhere in between.

Find out more
www.qoria.com