Hybrid Equity Model
utilising student devices

Some schools may want to make the most of the devices that students already own in order to increase the amount of technology used in the classroom and reduce the cost to the school.

Where this is implemented as part of a strategy of 1:1 access, then the school will need to provide all students who cannot bring their own device into school with something suitable, otherwise the school will create a digital divide, favouring better off pupils.

So is this a good model to follow? (The alternative being one where all pupils get the same device, provided by the school).

The Pros and Cons of a 1:1 strategy that deploys student-owned devices

1. Why it is a good idea to allow students to bring their own devices into school.
- Saves the school having to buy all the children a device
- Allows school funds to be focused on the less well off pupils
- Students are familiar with their own technology so reducing training time
- In some areas all the pupils might have a suitable device they can bring in, so there's no stigma attached to those who don't have their own

2. Why allowing students to bring their own devices into school might not be a good idea:
- The most commonly owned devices are mobile phones.
  - Has everyone got a "Smart phone"?
  - Will these small devices provide the functionality that your teachers and pupils need to do their research, homework, coursework, revision, etc?
- Variation in the different types of student-owned devices, from Blackberries to i-Pads to Laptops, may make it hard for teachers to make practical use of them in lessons for anything other than browsing and so limit their use.
- Could create a distinction between those who get the device issued by the school and those who bring in their own (the "NHS glasses" syndrome)
- May require a new network to cope with the different technologies that will need to connect to the school network, which could be expensive
- Complications in insurance for owned devices
- Health & safety liability/requirement for all devices to be PAT tested
- Many devices will only have basic "Home" operating software giving them problems with network access

For more information please talk to your School Liaison Manager