IPad use at St Columba’s School 2015

FAQ

1. Will my child use their iPad all the time?
No. iPads are tools for learning that will be used along with all the other tools available at school and home (e.g. pen, paper, calculators, books, computers etc).

2. What apps are being used and what research is available on these apps supporting their use?
All Apps selected to use within the iPad program have been carefully selected with guidance from our curriculum support teacher, Year 1 teachers and Apple Educators. This is why we are only focusing on a few Apps to begin with. Features associated with iPads such as audio recording, speech to text, camera, voice over (narrating text), airdrop (transferring files via bluetooth) and video are all excellent tools to use in the classroom. These tools can be used across all areas of curriculum and offer opportunities not readily available up to this point.

3. What data will be extracted from the apps to show parents their child's understanding of the concepts applied?
The only information that will be extracted from the Apps will be what teachers require for formal assessment. Children may create work samples with the aid of an App which will be subsequently assessed with reference to learning criteria.

4. Where will work samples or documents be stored?
In the first instance, work will be stored on the iPad itself. As storage capability is limited on the iPad (as with other devices), Brisbane Catholic Education Information and Technology Services has endorsed the use of “cloud” based storage facilities. Using cloud based storage will allow the teacher to access and assess samples of work from your child without having to physically handle the individual iPad. Note: All student’s data and information will be stored in accordance of the legislated Privacy Act.

5. Does the use of the iPads form part of the Year 1 assessments within the curriculum?
Yes. There will be areas of the curriculum where the iPad will be used to collect information for the purpose of formal assessment, as is the case with Year 1 students using desktops and laptops.

6. Will children use their iPads before school or during breaks?
When students commence class at 8:40am they will be place their iPad in a designated area of the classroom. iPads will be left in the classroom during breaks. (Occasionally students may be involved in special, teacher-supervised activities during breaks that require iPads. In this case, the teacher-in-charge or school officer will manage the children while they collect, use and return their iPads.)

7. How will the iPads be stored at school?
Each classroom will have an allocated space for student’s iPads. Students will be asked to unpack their bags and place the iPad in the space provided.
8. I’m concerned that the iPad will come in contact with liquid whilst in the school bag. Water resistant cases will be available for purchase during “Boot Camp” which will provide protection to the iPad from a small liquid leakage. Water bottles should always travel in the mesh pocket on the outside of the school bag and never together with the iPad.

9. You have recommend parents purchase the Kensington case, what if I prefer another model.

After looking at all the models available for the iPad Air we selected the Kensington case based on our experience in the Prep, Year 1 and Senior classes. We have found the Kensington case to be very robust and manufactured to withstand handling in a school environment. As with all things due care must always be observed. A feature of the Kensington case is the keyboard which is removable, reducing the weight when/if used outdoors. Parents may purchase another case but it’s strongly advised to select one that has similar features to the Kensington case.

10. How will my child know which iPad belongs to them?

Parents are asked to clearly name their child’s iPad case and keyboard separately. There may be times when the keyboard will be separated from the case to reduce the weight. This may be the case when used in the “Outdoor Learning Environment”.

11. Will my child still learn how to hand write at school?

Yes. iPads will not replace handwriting at school. Hand writing is still considered an important skill and lessons will continue as normal. As stated earlier the iPad is a tool which will not replace traditional methods of writing.

12. Will internet access be filtered?

Yes. Currently the school filters all internet content accessed through digital devices eg: iPads and computers in-line with Brisbane Catholic Education digital guidelines. All internet access via our network (WiFi and wired) is routed through our filter. It is worth noting that no filter system is perfect given the dynamic nature of the internet. The filtering definitions for our system are updated nightly.

13. Who will install and manage the Apps?

The iPad will receive a notification inviting them to participate in the Meraki program. Once the user agrees to participate the Meraki administrator pushes out the App using an MDM (mobile device management). The administrator can retrieve the app when no longer required and redistribute the app to another user. This system is beneficial to both the parents and the school as often children will only need an app for a short period of time reducing the cost to parents overall.

14. Who pays for the Apps purchased through the bulk Apple Volume Program?

At present there is an annual $20.00 levy included in the Term 2 school terms fees, which will cover all apps required by the students for that year.
15. Can we as a family install additional apps?
Yes. Parents at their own discretion may install apps for the family to use. While we support this, the school still requires sufficient amount of space be available for student use. As we have recommended the 32GB iPad, photos, video and music can quickly fill the iPad leaving insufficient space for student’s data.

16. The school has recommended creating a new Apple ID and not to use an existing ID.
Yes, we strongly recommend this as issues can arise when features such as streaming is turned on. This is an issue when an Apple ID is attached to multiple Apple devices including an Apple iPhone. Synchronising apps, photos and/or music across devices may cause problems for your child and teachers at school. Creating a new Apple ID requires the use of an email address not currently linked to an Apple ID.

Creating a new Apple ID without entering Credit Card Details

We strongly suggest you NOT enter credit card details into the iPad. To avoid entering a credit card, the Apple ID must be created AFTER the iPad setup is complete. AFTER setup the user goes to the App store, selects to buy a free App, then selects to create an Apple ID. From here you will see an option for payment, select NONE.

17. Our family is not familiar with Apple products, where can we access support?
There are a number of options available.
When purchasing through Apple and taking advantage of AppleCare+, which is an optional extra recommended by the school, this gives access to technical advice through telephone support.

Our IT Coordinator, Gaylene Sutton can assist you with most issues you have. Please arrange to see her, she works Monday - Thursday and is available from 7:30 – 3:00pm.

18. Do I need to backup to iTunes?
This is not a requirement, however you may opt to do this should you have personally purchased apps where valuable data is stored within the app, and you wish to recover data as a result of an iPad malfunction. Apple iTunes, a free download for both Mac and PC, manages and backs up all data, allowing the user to restore lost information. More information will be available during the parent information night.
Please go to Apple online to read which option is more suitable for you. Note: that when using iCloud there is a limit of 5GB, additional storage come as a cost.
http://support.apple.com/kb/ht5262

19. The school has strongly recommended that parents not associate credit card details to their child’s iPad, through the parent’s Apple ID account. Why?
This is to minimise the risk of your child accidently making a purchase from your credit card account. There are many games and apps available that automatically deduct from your credit card account unbeknown to you at the time. For this reason we ask that you do not give your Apple ID password to your child.
If you wish to have credit available to your family for personal use we recommend you purchase an iTunes card.
20. Should damage occur to the iPad whilst at school will the school insurance cover it?  

No. As this is a personal device families are asked to add this to their personal home insurance policy. **The school cannot make a claim as the item does not belong to the school.**

The school recommends purchasing the optional Apple Care, for more details go to the Apple site. [http://www.apple.com/support/products/](http://www.apple.com/support/products/)

21. Do you have advice about online safety?

We recommend parents look at this site.

  Each class will have access to cybersafety information as part of their ICLT education.

22. Will iPads promote poor posture?

Poor posture and associated strain are generally the product of fixed body position for an extended period of time. Desktop computers and laptops are just as likely to cause strain because they control posture. iPads are more mobile and light, which means they can be used with a wider variety of postures. It is easier to shift positions while remaining engaged.

Teachers will instruct and raise awareness of the importance of good posture.

If you have on-going concerns about your child's posture, please consult a doctor.

23. Will iPads cause eye strain?

Looking at any screen (computer, TV or iPad) for a long period of time without resting your eyes may cause eye strain. This is commonly called Computer Vision Syndrome and relates to computer and laptop monitors.

iPads potentially reduce the prospect of computer vision syndrome in the following ways:

- Due to its mobile nature, the chance of staring at a fixed focal length for an extended period of time is reduced.
- The brightness of the screen can be easily adjusted to match the lighting conditions.
- It is easy to tilt the iPad or change body position to reduce glare.

iPads with retina displays (all iPads after 2nd generation) may help to address this issue. Gary Heiting, an optometrist and associate editor of the site *All About Vision*, says

“A key factor in something that’s called computer vision syndrome, or just eye strain from computer use, is screen resolution.” ... “The new iPad, with twice the resolution of the iPad 2, 264 ppi (pixels per inch) instead of 132, people are going to notice less pixelation, especially in a small typeface. It’s not just an enjoyment issue or an aesthetic issue, but it’s definitely a visual comfort issue, over time.” (Mashable, 2012)

If you have any concerns about your child's well-being, please consult a health professional.
24. **What do you advise about volume levels for headphones?**

As a general rule, the volume levels of headphones should be low enough to hear a person speaking at normal levels when standing one metre away.

The volume for music can be limited on the iPad via Settings > Music > Volume Limit.

25. **How much does my child need to use their iPad at home?**

*Some* homework, set activities and assessment tasks may require your child to use their iPad at home.

Outside these things however, it is **your** decision about when and how your child uses their iPad. If you have any doubts about the nature of set work, please contact your child’s teacher.

Our position is:

- **iPads provide an environment / tool for learning; that is its main purpose.**

- Students can use it for other purposes but these must be appropriate to the context – school or home – and subject to permission.

- **We support parent decisions about the setting of boundaries at home as long as school work can be completed.**

- Students **do not need games and entertainment apps on their iPads for school.** Whether parents allow games and entertainment apps on their child’s iPad is a family decision.

26. **What if I need to remove my child’s iPad access as a discipline measure?**

We understand that this may be required and we will support you where we can. Please contact us about arrangements for ensuring the iPad is accessible at school and for school work.

27. **Why was the decision made for parents to purchase the iPad outright and not purchased by the school with parents charged a levy?**

Schools today are facing enormous costs providing digital devices and the IT Infrastructure to run these devices. In the last 2 years the school has spent a considerable amount of money in upgrading our network to support the ever increasing demand of Internet Access. The school also has wireless range in our new “Outdoor Learning Environment” outside the Year 1 block. All of these costs were met by the school. We are constantly planning for the future to ensure our students have the best advantage.

Many schools are now opting to “BYO Devices Programs” to relieve the pressure on schools. By introducing the iPad program, parents will have a learning tool that used by all the family. We believe this is the best decision for all concerned.

28. **What is the policy for damage caused to an iPad by students other than the owner of the iPad?**

We expect that with careful management and guidelines in place we can keep damage, accidental or otherwise to a minimum. Should there be an incident at school, the circumstances will be reviewed and we will work towards finding a suitable solution.