Year 1 in 2015

1:1 iPad Program

INFORMATION BOOKLET

It’s not the technology that counts...it’s what you do with it that matters.

21st century education integrates technologies, engaging students in ways not previously possible, creating new learning and teaching possibilities, enhancing achievement and extending interactions with local and global communities.

MCEETYA – Contemporary Learning: Learning in an online World (2005)
Introduction – Where are we coming from?

When students were succeeding in school with no technology, we were also living in a world with little technology, and preparing students for life in a world where technology wasn’t a part of their daily lives. Sir Ken Robinson. Changing Education Paradigms.

The world is not the same as it was 15, 10, 5, even 1 year ago. This is a fact. The digital world in which our children exist is changing the way children think. From birth, their brains are being affected by the audiovisual and interactive experiences provided by the digital tools they are exposed to. Our children, when compared to our generation, are neurologically wired differently. (Small and Vorgon, 2008). Their cognitive structures process information in a parallel or simultaneous manner, not sequentially like ours. This has been confirmed by research. It is our job as educators to prepare our students to succeed in the world as it is (and will be) as best we can. Here at St Columba’s we began to research the benefits of iPads as our technology of choice for lower primary. This research has involved references to national and international iPad studies, visits to other schools that have been successfully implementing iPad programs, and access to and guidance from ICT Learning Technologies consultants at the Catholic Education Office. As with any change to education, it is inherently accepted that primarily our parents, students and teachers need to be supportive of the 1:1 iPad program for it to be successfully implemented.

Our beliefs

At St Columba’s Primary we believe that:

- All students can learn, and do so in a variety of ways.
- Meaningful educational technology integration is an essential element to learning in the 21st century.
- Effective teacher up skilling is important in raising competencies for all educators, students and parents.
- Technology is a tool that is one part of a quality learning process.
- Other effective pedagogical strategies need to work in conjunction with technology.
- iPads are neither a substitute nor a replacement for the techniques and processes we are already using; they are a tool that can be used when they allow for outcomes to be achieved in ways not previously possible.
Why should we include technology in the education of our children?

**Reason 1. Expansion of time and place**
- Technology is no substitute for an inspiring teacher. However, on-line materials are far more available; twenty times more.
- Bottom line: information technology allows learning anywhere, anytime, opening up learning opportunities beyond the four walls of the classroom.

**Reason 2. Depth of Understanding**
- Interactive simulations and illustrations can produce a much greater depth of understanding of a concept. When virtual manipulatives are used in a classroom setting they can go far beyond chalk and talk. Using an iPad and computer software, such as Airserver, the teacher can conduct onscreen investigations and demonstrate concepts far more easily than with just words.
- Because the students have access to the same tools over the web, they can reinforce the ideas by experimenting with the simulations themselves, anytime, anywhere.

**Reason 3. Learning vs. Teaching**
- Technology allows the tables to be turned. Instead of teaching (push), students can be given projects that require them to learn (pull) the necessary material themselves. Key to this is the ability to get the information they need any time anywhere, without being in the physical presence of a teacher. This project-based pull approach makes learning far more interesting for the student, and enables the teacher’s role to be more of a learning facilitator and guide. Skills required of 21st century learners are enhanced as they move towards increasingly self-directed learning.

**Reason 4. New media for self-expression**
- Currently at St Columba’s students can write in a notebook, and what they write is usually seen only by the teacher. Using modern technology they can: make a presentation, record/edit spoken word, do digital photography, make a video, run a class newspaper, run a web based school radio or TV station, produce an animation, compose digital music on a synthesizer, make a website, create a blog, all of which can be shared with an authentic global audience, including parents who can benefit from far greater involvement in their child’s education.

**Reason 5. Collaboration**
- A vital skill in the new digital world is the ability to work collaboratively on projects with others who may not be physically close. This can best be done using tools such as the web, email, Edmodo, Skype etc. Rather than labouring alone on homework, students can work in small groups wherever they happen to be and at any time. Many high school and university projects are undertaken by teams spread around the world. Students need to be prepared for this.

**Reason 6. Going Global**
- The worldview of the student can be expanded because of the zero cost of communicating with other people around the globe. The Internet permits free videoconferencing which allows for interaction in real time with schools in other countries. From an educational viewpoint, what could be more important than understanding other cultures through direct dialogue and collaboration?

**Reason 7. Individual pacing and sequence**
- Students are, of course, all different. Information technologies can permit them to break step with the class and go at a pace and order that suits that student better. Without disrupting the class, they can repeat difficult lessons and explore what they find interesting. With time, it will become more like having a private tutor rather than being lost in a large class.

**Reason 8. Personal Productivity**
- Students need productivity tools for the same reasons you do. They need to write, read, communicate, organise and schedule.
St Columba’s iPad Program

To prepare students for the 21st century and to meet the ICT requirements of the newly implemented Australian Curriculum, it is incumbent on us to provide students with purposeful access to ICT that increases their participation, engagement and achievement in education. In 2012 at St Columba’s, we placed a bank of 12 iPads in the Prep classrooms. Prep teachers were then asked to work on a Literacy / Numeracy Action Research project. The focus of their project was Developing a Shared Vision – Prep, Technology and our Multimodal World. Teachers of our senior students were also given sole access to 12 iPads to use within the classroom. Teachers found that under the right conditions the iPad significantly enhanced teaching and learning outcomes within the classroom.

During 2013 we set out to investigate the capacity of iPads to:
- Increase independent and self-directed learning among students;
- Increase student motivation and active engagement in learning;
- Improve teachers’ capacity to plan for and meet individual student needs;
- Extend students’ learning beyond the classroom;
- Foster 21st century learning skills

But it is quality teaching and support that makes this possible, not the device.

What did we discover?
1. The iPad (as a device) has functionality and features that enhance its use as an effective and engaging learning tool.
2. The iPad is a device. It is another tool (albeit a powerful ‘anything, anytime, anywhere tool’) in the teaching and learning toolkit. It is not the only tool!
3. Quality teaching is (as has been found in other studies) the factor which enables the iPad to be used effectively to improve student motivation, engagement and learning outcomes. ‘Learning will only be 24-7 if what students are learning is intriguing and engaging. Curriculum drives 24-7 learning, not the device.’
4. The majority of students said that learning was more fun when using the iPads.
5. Students were more motivated and engaged in their learning and the use of the iPad had improved their effective use of ICT in teaching and learning.
6. The iPad supports essential skill areas: complex communication, new media literacy, creativity and self-directed learning. Use of the iPad created an immersive and active learning environment and created opportunities for personalised, student centred learning.

St Columba’s commenced a parent funded 1:1 iPad program with the Year 1 classes in 2014. The iPad became an educational tool in the student’s toolkit to help meet curriculum requirements alongside (rather than instead of) more traditional tools like text books, pencils and paper. The program commenced in Term 2, 2014.
Why choose the iPad as a device?

• The iPad is a personal device which can be used anywhere and anytime.
• Fast start up – no wasted learning time waiting to log on.
• Multi-media capabilities – camera, video and voice recorder – offer greater opportunities for creativity and sharing.
• Students have the ability to publish, inform, entertain and collaborate with a wider audience.
• The abundance of apps and access to information on a vast range of topics allows students and teachers to pursue areas relevant to classroom learning and Australian Curriculum content.
• The touch interface correlates to the technology which students use in their everyday lives and allows a high level of interactivity.
• A long battery life means the iPad can be used throughout the entire school day.
• There is anywhere, anytime access to current information that contains text, sound, images and interactivity.
• Light and portable, easily carried in the school bag and to and from Library, Music etc, when required.
• The iPad is seen to be an intuitive device and minimal technical support is required.
• The iPad easily facilitates the use of individual, paired, small group and large group work easily. Sharing and collaboration are enhanced.
• Facts are at hand, requiring less expert knowledge and more guiding of learning and mentorship from the teacher.

With iPads we can:
• Differentiate the curriculum.
• Use the Internet for research and school tasks.
• Draw, sketch and create artwork.
• Find, collect and analyse data.
• Be organised!

The Prep and Senior teachers found that use of the iPads has reinforced the quality of teaching, giving purposeful and effective use of ICT. This contributes to improved learning. As such, St Columba’s will endeavour to continue to provide teachers with access to meaningful professional development opportunities on a consistent basis over the next 3-5 years.

iPads in Year 1, 2015

The iPad you have or will purchase for your child will become an educational tool in his/her learning toolkit to help meet curriculum requirements alongside (rather than instead of) more traditional tools like text books, pencils and paper. The program will commence with a parent iPad “Bootcamp” scheduled for Tuesday 21st or Wednesday 22nd April (details to be distributed later this term). Children will be able to use the device from Thursday 23rd April. It is expected that this device will be used by your child in Years 1-3.

Device Specifications

The device that we are proposing is the iPad Air 32 GB Wi Fi only. We think that this device will be sufficient for students’ needs while at school. Other schools that have implemented student devices have found this to be the case. Keep in mind however, that allowing students to personalise their iPads with apps, music and data will take up additional space.
Purchasing

iPads are readily available from a variety of retailers. We suggest that you source the best priced iPad from a recognised supplier. The school will outline the setup procedure for your new iPad in preparation for Term 2. The school strongly recommends purchasing the AppleCare +

| AppleCare+ for iPad provides up to two years of expert telephone technical support and additional hardware coverage from Apple®, including up to two incidents of accidental damage coverage, each subject to a A$65 service fee. |
| AppleCare+ benefits are in addition to any legal rights provided by Australian consumer law. |

Schoolkids Bonus

For possible government assistance, parents will need to check for eligibility.  

Technical Considerations

- Wireless access at home – this is not essential but to allow the iPad to access the Internet, a home wireless network is required. This is usually provided by a wireless router.
- An Apple ID will be needed for use with the iPad to download apps. Please be aware that you need to be at least 13 years old to sign up for an Apple ID so parents need to do this and have control over the password. The school will invite parents to participate in an Apple Volume purchasing program. Apps will automatically download to the child’s iPad and the school may retrieve the app at a later date, as required.
- Personal apps, games, music etc can be downloaded onto the iPad – parents have complete control over this as it requires the use of the Apple ID and password; however, you are reminded that amount of storage may be compromised.
- Backing up of data on iPad – This is the parents’ responsibility through iTunes or iCloud. The school will offer guidance to do this through our parent information session.
- Parental restrictions – these can be placed on the type of apps and content that can be downloaded.
Other Considerations

Cyber Safety
Cyber safety issues are a concern with all Internet based devices. Parents are responsible for working with the school to ensure that their children are competent and respectful users of the Internet and the technology provided to them.

Security
Content filtering will be managed by the school in line with Brisbane Catholic Education guidelines. Restrictions to the iPad will be implemented by the school. St Columba’s will run an iPad Parent Workshop to explain the procedures for ensuring Cyber Security.

What about computers?
 iPads are only one of the devices students will use during class time. All students must learn and be familiar with a range of digital devices. No one device will meet all the students’ needs in terms of their learning. The children will have opportunity work with Windows machines and Microsoft programs.

FAQ’s
It’s inevitable that many questions will arise regarding our iPad program, and we have endeavoured to address these in the following FAQ section.

Why 1:1 and iPad?

1. Why do we need to use iPads in school?
The new Australian Curriculum requires students to develop ICT capability as they learn to effectively and appropriately use ICT to access, create and communicate information and ideas, solve problems and work collaboratively in all learning areas at school, and in their lives beyond school.

The Melbourne Declaration on the Educational Goals for Young Australians (MCEETYA 2008) recognises that in a digital age, and with rapid and continuing changes in the ways that people share, use, develop and communicate with ICT, young people need to be highly skilled in its use. To participate in a knowledge-based economy and to be empowered within a technologically sophisticated society now and into the future, students need the knowledge, skills and confidence to make ICT work for them at school, at home and in their communities.

iPads as a tool are fast and automated, interactive and multimodal, and they support the rapid communication and representation of knowledge to many audiences. iPads can adapt to different contexts. They afford students the opportunity to transform the ways that they think and learn and give them greater control over how, where and when they learn.

2. Why Parent Funded 1:1?
The school is not financially able to provide a device for each student but we value the ICT learning opportunities that will equip your child to take their place in the post – school world.

3. Why does every child need a device?
Students having access to their own device will help to maximise learning opportunities as the device will always be available. They will be able to use the same device at school and at home to make learning an option 24/7. The iPad works best as a single user device where no login is required, and provides opportunities for personalised, student centred learning. Children having their own device also allows for a level of parental involvement in learning which was not previously possible.
4. **Why is St Columba’s not proposing laptops?**
The iPad offers an element of speedy access, mobility and intuitive interaction. This is particularly important for lower primary while children are developing technology skills. There are a large range of apps available for the iPad that are useful for students in lower primary school years. These apps are relatively inexpensive to purchase. Suitable software for laptops is not so abundant and is often expensive.

5. **What ICT devices will other years have access to?**
All students will still have access to a variety of digital devices throughout the school which will assist them to achieve intended learning outcomes.

**Teaching and Learning**

1. **How will we know how the iPads are being used in the classroom?**
By implementing a 1:1 iPad program you child will be bringing their iPad between home and school on a daily basis. In our opinion, this provides unprecedented access to your child’s learning and affords parents the opportunity to become more actively involved in their child’s education.

2. **Will my son/daughter stop handwriting?**
No. The development of fine motor and handwriting skills are still considered fundamental at St Columba’s. Many iPad activities are undertaken as part of a process towards achieving learning outcomes, and using pen and paper is more often than not a part of that process.

3. **Will my son/daughter still need access to a computer at home?**
Access to a computer at home may complement learning experiences, but is not necessarily a requirement if an iPad is available.

4. **Have teachers been trained on how to use the iPads in the classroom?**
We view our teachers as learners too. Teachers at St Columba’s have access to weekly professional ICT learning opportunities. They also have access to professional support from many external sources. We consider their learning to be developmental and constantly evolving. We constantly look for ways to best support their technological and pedagogical understandings.

**Apps for the iPad**

1. **What apps will be required and who will pay for them?** – An Apple ID will be needed for use with the iPad to download apps. Please be aware that you need to be at least 13 years old to sign up for an Apple ID so parents need to do this and have control over the password. The school will invite parents to participate in an Apple Volume purchasing program. Apps will be downloaded to the child’s iPad and the school will retrieve the app at a later date, as required.

2. **Will my child be able to install other apps and games?** – Yes, however the purchase of all apps, games, music etc must be made with an Apple ID which requires a password. The owner of the Apple ID must be at least 13 years of age and it is strongly recommended that this is a parent. Hence parents have control over the Apple ID password and what is installed on the iPad.

3. **Will students be able to store music on the iPads?** – Yes students can store their music on the iPad. Again this requires the use of the Apple ID over which the parent should have control.

4. **What happens if inappropriate apps or music are on the iPad?** – If school staff notice that inappropriate apps or music are on the iPad the parent will be contacted and asked to remove the inappropriate material. Educational applications will be considered the priority on the iPad and the school reserves the right to request information which does not support educational outcomes be removed if it impedes the tool’s intended purpose.

5. **Will students be able to use Facebook on the device?** – Users of Facebook have to be 13 years of age or older, hence Facebook should not be used on the device. Access to Facebook is blocked at school.
Device Usage

1. Will students be able to use the devices at recess and lunchtime? – Students are encouraged to be active and socialise during break times. As a general rule the use of the iPads will not be allowed during these times.

2. Will my child’s Internet usage be monitored at school? – The school has an Internet filtering system that aims to stop inappropriate material reaching the students. Teacher supervision is also important in monitoring student usage and behaviour online, and student education has taken place and will continue to reinforce strategies for appropriate and safe behaviour online. Students can and do occasionally come across inappropriate content. We believe that providing them with strategies to deal with such occasions in a safe and supportive environment is preferable to them dealing with the issue in unsupported circumstances.

3. How will the school regulate student use of the Internet at home? – The school is unable to regulate student Internet usage at home. We encourage parents to be aware of what their child is doing on any Internet enabled device (computer, iPad, iPhone, iPod) and strongly encourage the use of these devices in family areas only (not in private areas such as bedrooms).

4. How much time will my child spend using the iPad each day? -The iPad becomes a tool amongst many at the disposal of the teacher and students throughout the day. With any learning experience, the teacher is best placed to decide which tool will be most effective in meeting the intended learning outcome. iPads are not intended to be a replacement or a substitute for any of the more conventional tools teachers have at their disposal. It is the school’s belief that any well-rounded approach to education involves balanced access to a variety of tools. iPads simply increase the number of tools at the teacher’s disposal and are only used when they are the best tool for the job.

Technical

1. How do we backup the data and apps on the device? – Data on the device can be backed up via iTunes on a computer at home or via Apple’s iCloud service over the Internet. Information on backing up the iPad will be covered in the parent information BootCamp.

2. How will it be protected from damage to and from school? – Students must keep the iPad in its keyboard case which then should be placed in a water resistant bag and then placed inside the school bag. The school and parents will need to educate students on the care of the iPad to minimise damage.

3. Will the battery last all day? –In our experience the iPad has sufficient battery life that is more than adequate for a day’s use in the classroom. There is an expectation that the iPad will be bought to school fully charged each day. There will not be charging facilities at school for your child’s iPad.

4. My child already has an iPad. Can they use this? If the iPad is the original, 1st generation iPad without a camera, then it is not suitable, as a camera is an important feature of the iPad in education. The iPad 2 is considered old technology and we would not be expect these to still be operating in 3 years time. There is also the potential over the next 2 years that apps required by the school will not be supported on the iPad2. (See comment on Device Specifications on page 4 of this booklet).

   It is important that there be enough room on the iPad for the student to be able to store media content and have storage space for all the recommended apps.

   Note: the school is not able to support the device or loan an iPad should yours be in for repair.
REFERENCES

The school has taken into account many sources of authoritative research, as well as the findings from our own trial and those of other like schools, to reach the conclusion that 1:1 iPads will be beneficial to your child’s education. Please refer to the following information that the school has referenced over the past 18 months of investigation. *(NB: This list is not exhaustive).*


http://courses.ischool.berkeley.edu/i290-pm4e/f10/files/Hew-Brush.pdf


http://jennyluca.wikispaces.com/TPACK+and+SAMR

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDZFcDGpL4U

http://www.ted.com/talks/sir_ken_robinson_brIng_on_The_revolution.html

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hrvli_wCT0

http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/jun/07/early-years-anxiety-digital-technology

St Columba’s wishes to acknowledge the support and information provided by *Our Lady of the Cape Primary School, Dunsborough WA,* in advancing our i:1 iPad initiative.