

Westgrove Primary School



BYOD iPad Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Education is no longer bound by the limits of the teacher, textbook, or the books in the school library. At Westgrove Primary School we are committed to preparing our students for the 21st Century.

Overview

- Why Apple?
- How can iPads improve learning?
- Why have an BYOD iPad program?
- How often will the iPad be used during school time and what will it be used for?
- What are the educational benefits of iPads?
- Will you evaluate learning outcomes differently?
- What about handwriting?
- Can I purchase an iPad for my children who are in other year levels?

General iPad Questions

- Is it Compulsory for my child to have an iPad?
- My child already has an iPad. Can that be used instead of purchasing a new one?
- Which model should I buy?
- Should I get the Wi-Fi only or the Wi-Fi + 3G model?
- Should I get the 16, 32 or 64GB?
- Do I need to buy a case to protect the iPad?
- What apps should I purchase and download so I am ready for school in 2016?
- Do I need wireless Internet at home?
- Can the iPad open Microsoft Office documents such as Word, Excel or PowerPoint?
- Can I back up my child's iPad on a PC?
- Will my child be downloading apps at school?
- Can parents control the use of the iPad at home?
- Will students need iTunes accounts to use with iPads?
- Does an iTunes account require a credit card for purchases?
- What about Sound, Music, pictures, games or programs?

Health, Safety and Security

- How will iPads be kept secure?
- How should the iPads be transported to and from school?
- Will my child's eyes be adversely affected by looking at an iPad screen all day at school?
- What health and safety issues are associated with iPad use?
- Will it increase cyber-bullying?
- What happens if a child breaks the User Agreement?
- The school monitors usage at school, but who monitors it at home?

Handling, Loss and Damage

- Will the iPad withstand handling by students?
- What tips are there for looking after the iPad?
- What if an iPad is damaged, lost or stolen?
- Are there other schools with a BYOD program?
- Will the iPad be used in every class?

Technical

- Will students receive support in setting up their iPads and how to best use it for their learning?
- What level of IT support will Westgrove PS provide?
- Will the iPad battery last all day?
- Can the school's network handle the load of every student and teacher having an iPad?
- What if my question isn't answered here?

Overview

Q. Why Apple?

A. An iPad is personal, powerful and versatile.

Stability – the iPad operating system has the reputation of being robust and intuitive. *Security* – the Apple App Store tests all new apps before releasing them to the public, ensuring no inappropriate content appears. *Continuity* – Apps perform the same way on all recent versions of the iPad, making it easier to cater for a variety of devices over time. *Support* – the AppleCare Protection Plan provides 24/7 telephone support, software support and technical support. *Curriculum* – The Department of Education iPad trial has collected evidence regarding the benefits of iPads in education.

An iPad enables both students and teachers to capture, test, collaborate and share learning content and knowledge.

Q. How can iPads improve learning?

A. 21st century learning involves critical, technical, collaborative and problem solving skills. It is through the iPad BYOD Program that we can provide opportunities for children to question, explore, interact, and create answers to some important questions. There is a growing body of research indicating its potential for improved learning outcomes. Both students and teachers are able to connect, collaborate, capture, test and share through the use of a personal device such as the iPad.

Q. Why have a BYOD iPad program?

A. There are many reasons that schools implement a BYOD program. At Westgrove Primary School we have 3 major aims of the program:

- Improve student academic achievement through the use of technology
- Prepare students for their future
- Enhance and transform the quality of teaching

Q. How often will the iPad be used during school time and what will it be used for?

A. “Anytime, anywhere, but not all the time.”

We as a school place a major emphasis on students using technology to assist and improve their learning. Students having a iPad for anytime, anywhere learning to take place, does not necessarily mean they will use their device all day every day. Whilst the iPad should be able to handle most of a student’s computing needs, it is certainly not intended to replace a laptop/desktop device. The iPad is a companion device. The advantage of the iPad is its mobility and ease of use, so it is the perfect tool to take to class, especially for younger students. This is a technology rich world and students are surrounded by digital technology. Schools can either use this technology to engage students in learning or ignore it. Staff and students will work together to use iPads as a tool, which develops the student as an information seeker, analyser, evaluator, problem solver and decision maker. They will use applications to create ways to communicate their findings and become publishers of their own work.

Q. What are the educational benefits of iPads?

A. Research suggests that most students already own and use digital tools on a daily basis for their educational, social and personal needs. At Westgrove P.S, we believe that it is our responsibility as a school to keep up with technological change and be at the cutting edge.

Q. Will you evaluate learning outcomes differently?

A. Students will continue to be evaluated against AusVELS (Australian Curriculum in Victoria). This includes the learning area Design & Technologies and the general capability of ICT. For more information see; <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Pages/foundation10/f10index.aspx>

Q. What about handwriting?

A. Students will continue to write with paper and pen and work to improve their handwriting as well as use the keyboard.

Q. Can I purchase an iPad for my children who are in other year levels?

A. In 2016 the BYOD iPad program will extend to include Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. If your child's year level is not in the BYOD iPad Program they will have some access to school own iPads.

General iPad Questions

Q. Is it compulsory for my child to have an iPad?

A. Involvement in the BYOD program is seen to be very beneficial for students. Whilst we cannot make it compulsory, participation is highly recommended.

Q. My child already has an iPad. Can that be used instead of purchasing a new one?

A. Yes. If your child already has an iPad 2 or later model, he/she can use it as their BYOD device. If you are purchasing a new iPad we strongly recommend buying an iPad Air in order to get the most use from the device. Please be aware that traditionally Apple will only support the two most recent models of their devices (currently the iPad 4th generation and the iPad Air), with software and hardware updates and support. An iPad Mini is also a suitable option for the BYOD iPad program.

Q. Which iPad model should I buy?

A. This is a personal choice, however, we do strongly recommend you think of the long-term investment when selecting your child's iPad. The model (iPad2 or 3, iPad Mini), and the size (16Gb-64Gb) are entirely up to you. The most common device we have by far is the 16GB Wi-Fi only model. We strongly recommend that parents purchase the Apple Protection Plan for the iPad to extend the warranty and support period to two years.

Q. Should I get the Wi-Fi only or the Wi-Fi + 3G model?

A. When you purchase an iPad, there are two connectivity options available: Wi-Fi only – this means the iPad must be in range of a wireless network to be able to access the Internet. Wi-Fi + 3G – this means that the iPad can access the Internet via wireless networks, but also via a 3G network from one of Australia's mobile phone providers (Telstra, Optus, Vodafone, 3 etc.). A micro-SIM from one of these providers is required for 3G access, with an additional ongoing cost.

Our wireless network will ensure that all devices are connected to the Internet at all times. While connected to the school's network there is no charge for usage or downloads. Please note, while connected to the Westgrove network, all traffic from the iPad passes through all our Internet filters and security. A 3G-enabled iPad can bypass these filters as it uses an independent 3G network, outside of the school's filters, therefore 3G Internet access **will not** be allowed at school.

Q. Should I get the 16, 32 or 64GB?

A. GB is spoken "Gigabytes" (GIG-a-bites) and refers to the volume of data the device is capable of storing. For school use a 16Gb model should provide ample capacity. The more applications, pictures, music and movies you want to store permanently on the device will determine the model you require.

Q. Do I need to buy a case to protect the iPad?

A. Yes. We strongly encourage you buy a case for your child's iPad in order to protect the device from damage. The iPad is a very robust device and can take a decent knock, however they are not indestructible. Students need to be cautious of not damaging their device and a case will certainly assist them in looking after it. We recommend investing in an iPad case, which has a screen cover integrated into the design such as the Griffin "Survivor", Otterbox and Trident brands.

Q. What apps should I purchase and download so I am ready for school in 2016?

A. Your child will be provided a list of ‘Core Apps’ before the end of this school year. This list will contain the permanent apps required on your child’s iPad to begin 2016. There are apps on this list that have a small cost involved, but they are well worth the investment. As learning progresses, other apps will be required, and identified through an iTunesU Course each term. Instructions and hands-on support sessions will be available.

Q. Do I need wireless Internet at home?

A. While having Internet access is an advantage in terms of giving students access to online collaboration and learning materials, it is not a requirement. Many apps will work without an Internet connection. Free Wi-Fi can be accessed at your local library and student’s iPads will be connected to the school Wi-Fi network during classroom time.

Q. Can the iPad open Microsoft Office documents such as Word, Excel or PowerPoint?

A. This is probably the most commonly quoted misconception when talking to people about using iPads. With specific applications such as Pages, Numbers, Keynote and access to Microsoft 365 any document type containing images and text can be created, viewed and edited.

Q. Can I back up my child’s iPad on a PC?

A. The iPad connects to either a Mac or a PC via iTunes. It doesn't matter what you have at home. The iPad will sync, backup and talk to both Windows PC or iMac desktops and laptops. We will be recommending that students regularly back up the iPad on a home computer in case of damage or theft. If a student forgets their passcode this can be reset from the computer with which it was last synchronised. Information about the restoring and backing up iPads can be found at the Apple website <http://support.apple.com/en-au/HT201252> .

Q Will my child be downloading apps at school?

A. Yes and no. At Westgrove, we encourage a flexible download agreement between you and your child, as it is important that they have the ability to, at times, download free apps during classroom sessions. With the latest IOS Update, Apple has enabled the ability for students to download free apps without the need for a password. *Students will never be required to download paid apps during class time.* Students are taught how to use their iPad and download apps responsibly. Parents can also set various controls through the ‘Restrictions’ setting on the iPad and we will cover these features during our parent workshop sessions.

Q. Can parents control the use of the iPad at home?

A. Yes. The use of the iPad and time spent on it will be entirely up to the parents to negotiate with their child. We strongly encourage you set clear time limits on its use during home time. The Internet has many benefits and risks and it should not be used by children without adult supervision and parental control. It is expected that students bring their iPad to school every day.

Q. Will students need iTunes accounts to use with iPads?

A. Yes and No. An iTunes account is needed to download and install apps from the App Store. You require an Apple ID to create an iTunes account. We **strongly** recommend that parents/guardians create and set up the iTunes Account and support students in managing app downloads. IOS 8.4 now allows students the flexibility to download free apps without the need for the iTunes password. This can be set up in the ‘iTunes & App Store’ setting on the iPad. This setting does not allow students to download paid apps or make ‘in app’ purchases.

All students will require an Apple ID to access their Term 1, iTunesU course. We will discuss the options for setting up your child’s Apple ID in our parent workshop sessions.

Q. Does an iTunes account require a credit card for purchases?

A. No. An iTunes account can be created without a credit card however you will need an iTunes gift card/voucher when setting up an account for the first time. An iTunes gift card can be used to credit the account so that purchases can be made to buy apps, music, TV shows and movies. Once the value of the gift card has been exhausted, no further purchases can be made until another gift card is added, or, you add a Credit Card to your account.

Q. What about sound, music, pictures, games or programs?

A. The use of sound and music will be at the classroom teacher's discretion. Students are encouraged to have their headphones at school to use, when the teacher deems it suitable.

Music is allowed on the iPad and can be used at the discretion of the teacher. Music with explicit language is not permitted.

Apps and online games that are not deemed as educational content are not to be downloaded or played at school. Inappropriate media may not be used as a screensaver, background photo or accessed at school.

Health, Safety and Security

Q. How will iPads be kept secure?

A. The security of the iPad is the responsibility of the parent/carer outside of school hours. Students are not allowed to remove the iPads from learning areas during lunch or recess. At these times classrooms are locked.

Q. How should the iPad be transported to and from school?

A. The iPad should have a protective case. These will fit easily into school bags. Students must take their iPad home each night in order to complete homework and recharge the battery. When travelling to and from school, students should store the iPad in its protective case in their school bag.

Q. Will my child's eyes be adversely affected by looking at an iPad screen all day at school?

A. Your child will not be using the iPad in every session so there will be ample downtime in which your child's eyes will be able to rest.

Q. What health and safety issues are associated with iPad use?

A. Instruction on use of iPads will be presented to students at the start of each year. This will focus on good posture with attention to the position of the chair, desk and iPad.

Generally, students will not be seated in the same place for long periods of time whilst using the iPad and are likely to take frequent breaks during the class and throughout the day.

Evidence from other iPad programs is that the combination of educating students about good practice and young people's natural habit of changing posture frequently addresses the issue of health and safety.

Q. Will it increase cyber-bullying?

A. Like mobile phones, email and messaging systems, iPads can be used to bully others. It is essential that all members of the community, students, parents and staff are aware of the potential for cyber-bullying and are aware of the policies. Students will be educated on what cyber-bullying is through participation in the CyberSmart presentations and series of lessons.

The iPad is not to be used to or take part in any form of cyber-bullying. Staff will be able to, at any time, access any student's iPad to view school content. Our school filter system allows e-mail and Internet access to be filtered and monitored. Instances of inappropriate behaviour will be dealt with according to the School's iPad Acceptable User Agreement and eSmart Policy and where necessary, parents will be contacted.

Q. What happens if a child breaches the Acceptable User Agreement?

A. All offences will be investigated thoroughly with checks made to the child's iPad and school account. A photocopy of the student's signed User Agreement will be mailed home to parents with the offences highlighted. The iPads are for educational use at school not for personal use during school time. Students who are found using their iPad for game playing at inappropriate times risk having the app removed by teaching staff. Other consequences will be negotiated with parents according to the severity of the offence.

Q. The school monitors usage at school, but who monitors it at home?

A. That is the responsibility of the parents. When off school grounds, parents have full authority to restrict device usage.

Examples of this may include:

- iPad can only use in a family room and not in the bedroom
- iPad can only use at certain times of the evening or weekend
- iPad cannot be taken along on a trip
- Examination of the documents and other contents of the device

Handling, Loss and Damage

Q. Will the iPad withstand handling by students?

A. There are no moving parts within an iPad. Damage can however occur to the screen. The iPad is a very robust device and can take a decent knock, but they are not indestructible. Students need to be cautious of not damaging their device and a cover/case will certainly assist them in looking after it.

Q. What tips are there for looking after the iPad?

- › Always use a case - they are designed to reduce the impact of drops.
- › Don't drink anywhere near your iPad (This includes family members)
- › Always ensure power cords are well out of the way to avoid tripping over them.
- › Have your iPad fully charged before bringing it to school.
- › Never leave your iPad in an unlocked car.
- › Never leave your iPad unattended in public, even for a short time.

Q. What if an iPad is damaged, lost or stolen?

A. Whilst the school will take care to provide a secure environment for those classrooms with iPads, we are unable to provide any form of cover for lost, stolen or damaged items. Depending on your home insurance cover, you may be able to add your child's iPad onto your policy as a portable device. We strongly suggest contacting your insurer directly. AppleCare is another option to cover your child's iPad from damage. Children are not to have their iPad out of their bag before or after school and they are not taken outside during break times.

Q. Are there other schools with a BYOD program?

A. Yes, there are many schools in the Werribee region and all around the world that have taken up a BYOD / 1-to-1 program.

Q. Will the iPad be used in every class?

A. The iPad will not necessarily be used in every class that your child attends for the day, but it will be used within all subject areas. Obviously some subject areas are more technology dependent than others and it is expected that the iPads will be used heavily each day. The iPads will complement the school's curriculum by providing appropriate digital learning tools in balance with other learning tools. Students will use the iPads where they serve a purpose, for instance, in research, creating and generating presentations. Wireless access will allow for "just in time" learning where students can search for information or collaborate with others in a real time context.

Technical

Q. Will students receive support in setting up their iPads and how to best use it for their learning?

A. Yes. Teachers who have had extensive professional development will spend time with all students in their classes showing them the basics of the iPad and its operation and how it can support their learning.

Q. What level of IT support will Westgrove PS provide?

A. Our helpful staff will be available to support iPad users and their families. We will provide assistance with technical issues, such as ensuring that the student's iPad connects to the Wi-Fi network and all available services such as email. The IT Department will not undertake mechanical repairs. All iPads should be under warranty, so any technical faults will be addressed under the terms of the warranty meaning that parents/families are responsible for having devices repaired.

Q. Will the iPad battery last all day?

A. Yes. The battery life will last approximately 10 hours. You can also go online to access tips for extending the battery life.

Q. Can the school's network handle the load of every student and teacher having an iPad?

A. The school has invested heavily in infrastructure to ensure that the network will be able to cope with the demands of all the students and staff having laptops/Desktops/iPads that require network access. We have two separate wireless points; one for students and one for staff. We will also monitor the network to ensure that it will run smoothly when all users are online.

Q. What if my question isn't answered here?

A. Please ask! We understand that there may be some early confusion and you may have questions that have not been answered in this document. We welcome input from parents, students, and the community and would be grateful for any constructive criticism. If you have any further questions or concerns about the program please contact the school through reception and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible. As a school we have dedicated a great amount of time in investigating research in to 1:1 technology programs. As mentioned we see the use of the technology, primarily mobile technology, as an outstanding tool in assisting and complementing what the students are learning at Westgrove Primary School.