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.
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Overview

Q. Why Apple?
A. 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.

Q. How can iPads improve learning?
A. DEECD’s 2011 iPads for “Learning – In Their Hands” trial placed around 650 iPads in ten primary, secondary and special schools. The trial has investigated the capacity of iPads to …
• increase independent and self-initiated learning among students
• increase student motivation and active engagement in learning
• improve teachers’ capacity to plan for and meet individual student needs
• improve student learning outcomes
• extend students’ learning beyond the classroom
• improve parental engagement in learning and strengthen home-school links
… and found that effective use of iPads can lead to all of these outcomes.

Q. Why have a BYOD program?
A. There are many reasons that schools implement a BYOD program. At Westgrove Primary School we have 4 major aims of the program:
• Improve student academic achievement through the use of technology
• Assure equity in access to digital resources
• 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. We as a school place a major emphasis on students using technology to assist and improve their learning. That students have a mobile device for anytime, anywhere learning to take place, does not necessarily mean they will use their device all day every day. While 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 2015 the BYOD iPad program will extend to include Year 3, 4 and 5. 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.

Q. Which model should I buy?
A. The minimum expectation is that each student in the year levels identified will have an 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. 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.
Q. What apps should I purchase and download so I am ready for school in 2015?

A. We will be sending a complete list home of all apps we will require to support the teaching and learning occurring in 2015.

Q. Do I need wireless internet at home?

A. As the iPad is a wireless device it is most effective when connected to the internet, however, you do not necessarily require wireless internet. A lot of the applications that iPad’s run do not require an internet connection. However it does help and can enhance what an application can do.

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 installed on the device almost any document type containing images and text can be viewed. The Pages, Numbers and Keynote apps can edit and save these types of documents. There are minor limitations with heavily formatted documentations and presentations but with a new device comes a new way of working and students will learn how best to work across both Windows and iPad platforms. It is the well-designed compatibility across multiple platforms that is, in fact, what the iPad does very well. The iPad will also work with Mac documents.

Q. I have a PC at home, not a Mac. Will the iPad work with my PC?

A. The iPad connects to either a Mac or a PC via the iTunes software. It doesn't matter what you have at home. The iPad will sync, backup and talk to either PC or Mac 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. Can parents control the use of the iPad at home including which apps are installed?

A. Yes. It is important that students use these devices responsibly and we will be working with parents to make sure that this is the case. Parents can set various controls and we will cover these features during our parent workshop sessions.

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

A. Yes, and No. iTunes Accounts, or Apple ID’s are needed to download and install iPad Applications, however we strongly recommend that parents/guardians create and set up the iTunes Accounts and do all managing for the students. Apple family accounts are now an option through IOS 8.0+, parents can push apps through to any devices linked to their apple ID. This will ensure parents can monitor all applications that are being downloaded. We will discuss the options for setting up iTunes accounts in our parent workshop sessions.

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

A. No. iTunes accounts 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. iTunes gift cards 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. Sound must be muted at all times unless permitted by the teacher. Students may bring headphones to 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.
Internet 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 or 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 iPads be transported to and from school?**

A. iPads 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 class 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 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 is cyber-bullying 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 details of student internet activity in the classroom through purchased software that allows the staff to view student’s screens while at school. This software gives the staff the ability to keep track on what students are doing at all times during school hours. It allows e-mail and internet access to be filtered and monitored. Instances of inappropriate behaviour will be dealt with according to the School’s Acceptable User Agreement and eSmart Policy and where necessary, parents will be contacted.

**Q. What happens if a child breaks the User Agreement?**

A. A consequence will be enforced depending on the severity of the offence. 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. A suspension of the student’s school account will be imposed. The time frame will vary 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:

- Can only use in a family room and not in the bedroom
- Can only use at certain times of the evening or weekend
- Cannot take it along on a trip
Examine the documents and other contents of the device
Confiscate the device and bring to the school for examination of device contents

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. iPads brought to school are not covered by Westgrove PS or the Department of Education’s insurance. Unfortunately accidents can happen. We encourage students and families to take particular care of the iPad at school and home. With proper care accidents can be avoided. When purchasing iPads parents may wish to include AppleCare or alternatively take out additional personal insurance to protect the iPad in cases of theft, loss or accidental damage.

In the event that an iPad is broken/damaged the school cannot take responsibility. Students will sign a Student Agreement stipulating; If a student accidently or deliberately drops/damages another student’s device he/she is responsible for the damage and replacement/repair.

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/Netbooks/iPads that require network access. We have two separate wireless points; one for students and one for staff. As there will be a gradual implementation, this will allow us time to fully test 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.