

Frequently Asked Questions

Why iPads?

Currently within the school this program works with a single platform (iPads), this is the direction we will be continuing with into next year also. There are many reasons to support this decision including the fit for our school context supported by the significant investment families have already made in Apple devices, manageability with access to the network, continuity of accessibility to applications, security Apple provides through its rigorous testing of applications prior to them being available on the App Store and a single platform for teachers to build capacity and redefine the learning opportunities to empower our students for today and tomorrow.

How much will the iPads be used in class? What about the issue of too much ‘screen time’?

Because the iPad is simply another tool that supports student learning (granted, a very powerful and multi-faceted tool), it is impossible to say exactly how much it will be used as this will change depending on the learning tasks at hand.

We view 1:1 program as an opportunity to incorporate a powerful tool into the repertoire of resources our student's have to enhance their learning opportunities, rather than it being the focus. It is no longer appropriate for students to have scheduled ‘computer time’ on shared devices, where they stare at a screen for extended periods and then have no access to them after that. A true 21st Century curriculum demands access to be needs based, when appropriate to enhance the learning that is already going on. Students may need to research information to support their inquiry learning, take an authentic step in their journey to being young writers by publishing their writing in a range of multimodal styles, create a tutorial of a mathematical concept that they have learnt to teach their peers and share with their families, create a multimedia presentation to be shared with the school community informing them of a new community-based initiative coming up as part of their Challenge Based Learning, connect to their peers from home via their online learning community to share ideas and support each other's learning, communicate with schools or organisations beyond the walls of their classroom so that they can have real-life impact on their community.

In other words, the devices may be needed in a variety of ways but the focus is on the learning and it is just one of the many tools that support achievement broader learning objectives.

What about handwriting?

Students will continue to write with paper and pencil and work to improve their handwriting. Different tasks may require different tools and we will assist students to choose the appropriate tool for their learning tasks.

What if the iPad is used for inappropriate purposes?

If behaviour occurs that is outside our school's Digital Technologies Acceptable Use Agreement or 1:1 iPad Program Acceptable Use Agreement, the iPad may be confiscated from the offending student for a period of time, as deemed appropriate by the student's teacher. It is important that teachers, students and parents share the responsibility to ensure safe and responsible use of devices at all times.

Security of iPads

To ensure the safety of all devices, students are required to take their bags containing their iPad inside their classroom as soon as they arrive at school at the beginning of each school day. A teacher will be supervising from 8.45am.

When not in use, the devices will be kept in a locked room. No iPad is to be taken outside during recess or lunch times except for with the specific permission of a teacher. Students will be strongly advised to keep their iPads in their zipped up school bag when travelling between home and school.

Warranty & Insurance

We would be strongly recommending the purchasing of insurance.

If you are providing a privately purchased iPad, you will need to pursue your own insurance for the device, whether it is through your Home Content Insurance, or through specific insurance you seek out for the iPad.

Apps

A list of required apps will be provided before the end of this school year. At this time there will be no paid apps required. It is the student's responsibility, in association with their parent or guardian, to install the required apps onto their iPad, and to sync it to a machine at home to ensure all content is backed up.

Students may install other apps or media on the iPad providing:

- The installed media meets the requirements of our Acceptable Use Agreement. Any breaches of the Acceptable Use Agreement may result in confiscation of the iPad.
- The installed media does not infringe copyright laws.
- There is enough memory available to engage in all educational requirements.

Downloading apps, music, games and videos from the Internet during school hours is prohibited except when directed by a teacher.

What if I choose not to participate?

While every endeavour has been made to make our program the cheapest 1:1 program on offer anywhere, we understand that the cost involved may still be prohibitive to some families.

If for whatever reason you choose not to participate in the program, your child will still have access to our school ICT resources as usual. This program is not designed to replace school provided devices, but rather to supplement them. Our Grade 4s will still have the same access to our central resource of Desktops, Laptops and iPads.

Where can I go for further information?

Should you require further information to answer any questions you have, visit the OPS 1:1 iPad Program website at <http://ops1to1ipad.global2.vic.edu.au> or scan the QR code to access the site.

Here there is lots of background information about why the school runs a 1:1 iPad program. You can find links to evidence supporting the implementation of 1:1 iPad programs, articles and videos, and links to other interesting iPad sites, including the Victorian Government schools iPad trial site.

