



IPAD INFORMATION

WHITFORD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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INTRODUCTION

SCHOOL VISION

The Whitford Catholic Primary School vision is to be a **Catholic community where children thrive, enjoy learning and gain life skills to meet future challenges.**

“If we teach our students as we did yesterday, we are robbing them of tomorrow” - John Dewey

RATIONALE

This handbook outlines Whitford Catholic Primary School's policies and structures which support the implementation of the School's 1:1 Program. Whitford Catholic enthusiastically undertakes and supports this program in order to:

- provide a student-centred, experience-rich education for the 21st Century;
- actively engage students in the learning process;
- connect education at Whitford Catholic with today's technological world;
- improve the students' ability to thrive and think in an information rich world;
- foster 21st century skills including creativity, innovation, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, adaptability and productivity;
- extend learning beyond the classroom to both bridge the gap between home and school and extend their learning community to include parents, siblings and other important people in their lives;
- expand the methods of learning and opportunities for differentiated instruction; and
- encourage the disposition and capacity to be life-long learners.

Opportunities are created whereby students access, construct and publish information, utilising collaborative strategies, in real-time and virtual spaces. A 21st Century Learning environment supports a dynamic and interactive learning space. This program ensures that teachers and students are working in a collaborative, online, interconnected community.

Each student's device affords the opportunity to enter a new world of curriculum possibilities, allowing authentic engagement and involvement in their learning. Learning experiences are purposefully designed to develop the attributes of a life-long learner. In this way, each student learns to develop and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, practices and attitudes necessary to be a successful citizen of the 21st Century.

WHAT IS A 1:1 PROGRAM ?

One-to-one learning provides every student and teacher access to his or her own iPad in a wireless environment allowing students to learn at their own pace and ability levels. One-to-one initiatives have gained momentum worldwide, and are increasingly seen as a key to transforming education, and better preparing students to succeed in a global world. As educators, we have taken into account many sources of authoritative research, as well as the findings from our own experience, and with support from CEWA and those of other like schools in Western Australia, the school staff have made the decision to move forward with a 1:1 device to support your child's education. In the 1:1 Program, students' access to a technological device and the internet enables them to be more self-directed and receive highly personalised instruction. Teachers can create Personal Learning Plans for students, addressing their unique needs. Students use their personal devices to do research, communicate and collaborate with teachers and peers, do homework when required, solve problems, complete team projects, email, and complete academic course work. At the same time, they gain valuable 21st Century skills that will be beneficial throughout their lives and careers.

WHY 1:1 ?

The Australian Curriculum states students will be expected to develop ICT competence as they learn to use ICT effectively and appropriately when **investigating, creating and communicating** ideas and information at school, at home, at work and in their communities.

Whilst a shared iPad model allows access to devices, it does not reflect the ubiquitous learning that a 1:1 model offers. The children cannot always finish an entire project at one time and with the iPads being shared between classes there are occasions where children will have to wait for their turn on a device.

WHY IPAD ?

There are many reasons why the iPad was chosen for the 1:1 program at Whitford Catholic, such as:

- 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 allows students and teachers to pursue areas relevant to classroom learning and Western Australian Curriculum content
- A 10 hour 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 used in the classroom
- The iPad is an intuitive device and minimal technical support is required
- The iPad facilitates the use of individual, paired, small group and large group work easily
- Sharing and collaboration are enhanced
- Devices can be managed by a Mobile Device Management System
- We are preparing our students for the secondary colleges that they are heading to by giving them experience in an Apple environment.

WHITFORD CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IPAD EXPERIENCE SO FAR

To prepare students for the 21st century and to meet the ICT requirements of the newly implemented Western 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 2016, after researching current ICT informed practice in education, Whitford Catholic Primary School initiated a very successful 1:1 BYO iPad program in Years 3 & 5. This saw a move toward more individualised and self-initiated learning, increased independence in students and an extension of learning beyond the classroom.

Our experience this year has highlighted many advantages of using the iPad to enhance learning across the curriculum. The iPad is light, highly portable and their flexibility allows easy integration of higher order and creative thinking skills as well as providing opportunities for word processing, presentations and to share learning.

What we found was that the iPad (as a device) has functionality and features that enhance its use as an effective and engaging learning tool, however 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.

Teachers noted that students had greater choice and flexibility in their learning, that they were more motivated and engaged in their learning and that the use of the iPad had improved their effective use of ICT in teaching and learning.

Teaching and learning success with iPads depends on a supportive school and home environment.

1:1 PROGRAM GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW

In 2017 Whitford Catholic will continue the 1:1 iPad program for years three, four, five and six students. This program will continue each year. Students will use their device from year three until the end of year six. The device will become an educational tool in your child's toolkit to help meet curriculum requirements alongside (rather than instead of) more traditional tools like text books, pencils and paper.

DEVICE SPECIFICATIONS

Recommended specification for Year 3 and Year 5 students in 2017:

iPad Air 2 - 32GB wifi model (if 3G model is used, SIM card will need to be removed prior to the device coming to school)

iPad - current pricing on Apple Store - \$569

Sturdy Case

Headphones with built in microphone

Insurance (organised through home insurance policy - must include coverage at home, school and in transit)

*Apple store offers 0% payment options

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IF I SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY AN IPAD FOR MY CHILD?

In the case of genuine financial hardship, please see Mrs Tamara McGougan so your particular circumstances can be discussed.

WHAT IF MY FAMILY ALREADY HAS AN IPAD?

- If you have purchased or are planning to purchase the recommended specified iPad for your year level, we are confident that this will support learning up to Year 6.
- Should you choose to provide your child with an earlier model or one with a lower specification that you already have at home, we will work with your child to get the most out of their device.
- We will continue to facilitate shared iPads for those children without their own device and will have some desktop computers in the classrooms so that children are not disadvantaged at school.

WILL PARENTS BE ASKED TO PURCHASE APPS?

Whitford Catholic Primary School will be enrolling student iPads in a Mobile Device Management system that will allow the school to distribute some apps that have been purchased by the school to the student iPads. The enrolment process wipes the content of the iPad and allows the school to install the apps. In addition, device management gives teachers and parents the ability to lock the iPad to a particular app or website as well as monitor student usage. Parents will still be able to log into the app store on the iPad and download purchased apps and install new apps.

WILL STUDENTS BE ALLOWED TO HAVE MUSIC AND GAMES ON THEIR IPAD?

Yes. However, parents are strongly encouraged to monitor the appropriateness of the games that are installed.

CAN MY CHILD HAVE THEIR IPAD TAKEN FROM THEM?

Yes. If the student breaches the iPad student agreement the Principal will securely store the iPad and parents will be contacted.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL THE STUDENTS USE THEIR IPAD FOR DURING THE SCHOOL DAY?

This will change on a daily basis. With any learning experience, the teacher is best placed to decide which tool will be the 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.

WILL STUDENTS BE ABLE TO USE THEIR IPAD DURING RECESS AND LUNCH?

No. iPads will remain locked in the classrooms during recess and lunch. iPads are to remain in the students' school bags with the student before and after school. When the student enters the classroom the iPad will be stored in the students' desk or drawer. If there is a situation where the student is involved in a before or after school activity such as a sporting activity, students will be able to store their school bag in the school office.

WILL MY CHILD'S INTERNET USAGE BE MONITORED AT SCHOOL?

Yes. The school has an internet filtering system that aims to stop inappropriate material reaching the students. Students will also continue to learn cyber safety as part of the ICT program.

WHAT IF MY CHILD FORGETS TO BRING THEIR IPAD TO SCHOOL?

In this case the student may be required to complete tasks without it and catch up on work in their own time.

CAN THE IPAD BE CHARGED AT SCHOOL?

No. It is the students' responsibility to ensure that the iPad is fully charged when they come to school. The battery life is more than adequate to last the school day.

WILL MY CHILD BE REQUIRED TO DO HOMEWORK ON THE IPAD?

Homework will be set at the discretion of the classroom teacher. There may be times when students will have the opportunity to complete projects that they have started at school. There will also be apps that they can use at home to aid their learning. Use of the iPad at home will also allow students to familiarise themselves with how to use apps to improve their confidence when using them in the classroom. Most importantly, the students will have the opportunity to show other members of the household what they have been working on with their iPad.

WILL THE STUDENTS STILL BE TAUGHT THE THREE R'S?

Yes. Schools are mandated to teach the content of the Western Australian Curriculum. The iPad, like any other tool, will be used when appropriate to enhance the learning experience. Paper and pencil and other tools will also be used when most appropriate.

I AM CONCERNED ABOUT HEALTH ISSUES

Prolonged time in any position or activity may be of concern. This may include sitting and writing, reading, sporting activities and excessive screen time. Student activities are managed in the planning and delivery of curriculum. In our classrooms we have regular breaks, students are encouraged to get up and move around the classroom and we use furniture that maintains good posture.

WHAT HEADPHONES WILL MY CHILD NEED?

The standard apple headphones are fine, we do however find some children find the earbud style of headphones uncomfortable and therefore have just asked for headphones with a microphone to allow parents to choose the most appropriate for their child.

WILL INDIVIDUAL'S IPADS BE USED BY OTHER STUDENTS?

No. Only the owner of the iPad will be using it. There will be times where students will be working with groups and will need to share content, this will be done through wireless transfer of documents, photos, videos etc. Students without an iPad will be provided with a school device for the purpose of the lesson as determined by the classroom teacher.

IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN IN BOTH YEAR 3 AND YEAR 5 WILL THEY NEED THEIR OWN IPAD OR CAN THEY SHARE?

Whilst the iPad is designed as a personal device and the classroom activities are designed around individual students having their own iPad, should your circumstances be such that you are unable to supply each student with an iPad, please see Mrs Tamara McGougan and the school will work with your students to get the most out of their device.

WHAT IF THE IPAD IS DAMAGED, LOST OR STOLEN?

Parents need to ensure that the iPad is covered on their home insurance for at home, school and in transit. Should an incident occur at school where the iPad is damaged the school will assess the incident on a case by case basis and may cover the repair of the iPad if the school is deemed to be at fault for the circumstances of the incident. With the robust cases that the school is recommending there is low likelihood of damage to the iPad.

WILL YOU KEEP PARENTS INFORMED ABOUT THE INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY INTO THE CURRICULUM?

Yes. Through teacher-parent communication - emails, parent nights etc. and also through students being able to take their work home and show/explain to you what they are doing in class on the iPad. If your child is using a school device there will be opportunities for you to come into the classroom to view their work and talk with your child about what they are doing.

I AM NOT CONFIDENT WITH TECHNOLOGY, HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD?

Parents will have access to help documents on our iPad program website and will be invited to workshops to get assistance with using the iPad.

HOW DO WE BACK UP THE IPAD?

Parents and students will both receive instruction and assistance with regards to methods for ensuring student work is backed up.

WHAT IF WE NEED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

School staff have the skills to manage many issues that arise in the classroom on the iPads. We also have support on the phone and online from the Catholic Education WA service centre and over the phone and in person support from external support companies. For other issues parents will be directed to the Apple store or other Apple service centres.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Documents and links regarding the iPad program can be found at the program website at:

wcps-ipads.weebly.com

WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?

We will be providing parents with a list of dates in Term 4 of 2016 where they can bring in the iPad to have it enrolled in ZuluDesk ready to go for day 1 2017. Prior to this, parents will be given instructions of how to back up data if they are using an existing iPad.

If you are purchasing an iPad, this can occur at any stage between now and the start of school next year, however it will be preferable to have it enrolled in ZuluDesk prior to the end of the 2016 school year.

Students will need to have their iPad on Day 1, Term 1, 2017.

