

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD – iPad) Program - Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

For more detailed information about our Proposed BYOD – iPad Program and the educational reasons behind this proposal, please refer to the Library section in Connect or select the following link to our web page: <https://burrendahps.wa.edu.au/bring-your-own-ipad>

Q 1. Do we intend on all year levels purchasing an iPad?

A. 1. No, our intention is that we start the program in Year 4 and over three years achieve a BYOD program from Year 4 – 6. This is based on the life expectancy of an iPad and the reality that students will probably need a different device as they transition to high school.

It is also important to note, that whilst iPads can have a prolong life span, their ability to run the latest OS (operating system) and associate apps diminishing after about 3 – 4 years. This is considered an imperative in a school environment where uniformity is critical in the efficient use of technology to enhance learning rather than impede it.

Q 2. How will Kindergarten – Year 3 access iPads?

A 2. We will continue to fund ICT at our current level, re-allocating funds to K – Year 3 students so there is an appropriate ratio of devices in these classrooms.

Q 3. Why has the school selected an iPad?

A 3. Compared to other devices, recently reviewed, the iPad has proven to be a highly reliable and robust device that uses interactive and intuitive software at a reasonable price. In addition to this, the iPad also supports the Microsoft 365 Stack and has excellent technical and professional learning support.

It is also important to note, that we have decided to move towards one platform across all year levels as we need to manage the school's infrastructure, technical support and associated costs more efficiently. Hence, the need for the purchasing price per unit to be affordable for both parents and the school.

Q 4. What if you cannot afford an iPad?

A 4. The school will maintain a small bank of iPads for students who do not join the BYOD program.

Q 5. What if I have an existing iPad that is currently home-based or wish to purchase a second-hand iPad?

A 5. Yes, but it must be capable of running iPad OS, which currently includes: iPad 5th & 6th Gen, iPad Air (3rd Gen) and iPad Air 2 along with iPad Pros (9.7" – 12.9").

Q 6. Does the school organise the purchasing of iPad for parents?

A 6. Parents can purchase an iPad through any supplier. However, most schools across the state suggest to parents that they buy an iPad through Winthrop Australia which offer educational prices and support via the school.

Q 7. Is it possible to control home use of apps, time and internet access?

A 7. Apple offers more parental control than any other device on the market, which is accessed through Apple – Family Sharing and device Settings. In addition to this, Jamf Parent iOS is a free product that restricts app access and schedules homework based on using a specific app. Furthermore, families should consider the use of an appropriate internet filtering system, such as Family Zone which has been recommended by the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner. We also have a proposed Family Media Agreement to provide an opportunity for parents and their children to sit together and come to an agreement on the purpose and use of the iPad at home.

Q 8. Are the teachers trained in the effective use of iPad to enhance learning?

A 8. Yes, the teachers started training in the new Digital Technologies curriculum in 2016, followed by training in Design & Technologies in 2018 and integration of iPads into the classroom from 2019 – 2020. By the end of this year, 20 of our staff would have received individual coaching through Winthrop Australia along with two days of intensive training. In addition to this, all staff has received training in the use of SMARTBoards with three staff participating in 20 hours of online training to further support our teachers. Our intention is that this focus will continue next year and as the need arises over the years.

Q 9. What processes does the school have to manage iPads usage?

A 9. At school, we will provide all apps through Jamf's - Mobile Device Management (MDM) system which automatically loads required apps onto student devices. This will ensure that all children have the correct app and version required for efficient lesson delivery. We also have access to Apple Classroom, which enables teachers to launch a specific app, website, or textbook page on any iPad in the classroom, share documents between teachers and students or share student work on an interactive whiteboard. Students will also be required to sign an ICT Acceptable Use Agreement and Classroom Media Agreement which clearly defines appropriate usage at school.

Q 10. Will students still be using pen and paper?

A 10. Yes, there will still be ample opportunity to use a pen and paper. This is important because kinaesthetic learning (tactile) as well as multi-sensory (visual & auditory) techniques are part of how we learn.