



BRING YOUR OWN IPAD PROGRAM - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the iPad Program?

It is an initiative that will allow students to bring personal iPads to school to use for educational purposes under the direction of a teacher.

The iPad Program means parents will supply an iPad –

Suggested iPad models:

- New Model – iPad (A16) or iPad Air (M3) 64GB model
- Pre-used – iPad (9th or 10th gen) 64GB

Is the iPad Program mandatory?

No. If parents opt not to provide a personal device, there will still be access to shared school-owned devices for use in the classroom. As per our current procedures, school-owned devices would remain at school.

What are the benefits of the iPad Program and parents/caregivers providing a personal device?

1. Our students are living in a world where they have immediate access to information anytime and anywhere. Many students have personal devices that can be used to allow them to learn in their own style and at their own pace. With digital learning, every student can access high-quality and rigorous instruction, thereby maximising their opportunity for success in school and beyond.
2. High schools have embedded contemporary learning programs using a range of digital devices. The iPad Program will prepare our students for the transition to high school where learning with technology is the norm.
3. Teaching students that devices can be used other than gaming and video streaming is an important distinction.
4. The kinaesthetic, auditory and visual aspects of the iPad mean the device suits multiple learning styles.
5. Personalising learning and giving students ownership, responsibility and valuable organisational skills to care for and control their iPad.

Specific benefits include:

- Seamless transition from school to home – example – students can revisit daily classroom learning by watching video tutorials or revising using an App featured in class.
- Gives students greater choice and more independence – example – classroom content is available on the iPad and students can use the audio tools to listen to their work or to record themselves when taking notes or practicing reading.
- Creates a model for lifelong learning – research shows that students who enjoy learning do not see it as a school-only event. The iPad allows students to learn anywhere.
- Allows for personalised learning – example – students can organise their work and interact with new content. They learn in a way that suits their learning style.



- Improves student learning outcomes and fosters collaboration – example – research shows that when students take ownership of their learning on their digital device, they produce improved work; when they share their learning with others, they are deepening their understanding.
- Allows for 24/7/365 access – this is an important feature for today's contemporary students – having their work accessible anywhere and anytime.
- Provides easier student access to online instructional materials – the iPad puts learning at the students' fingertips.
- Supplements school resources and equipment – digital tools are just that – tools for learning and as students become more familiar with their device, they will customise it to suit their learning. A personal device normalises the use of technology. No longer is ICT seen as a separate learning event – the iPad is an everyday learning tool.
- iPads require minimal maintenance and installation of software.
- Provides accessibility to the world from anywhere; students don't need to carry a dictionary, thesaurus, maths text, atlas, LOTE dictionary and lots more heavy texts.
- Battery life is LONG.

What does the Australian Curriculum say about what students typically know at the end of Year 6?

Applying social and ethical protocols and practices when using ICT element

This element involves students developing an understanding of how social and ethical protocols and practices are applied when using ICT. Students apply appropriate practices to recognise the intellectual property for digital information of themselves and others. They use appropriate practices for the physical and logical storage and security of digital information, and apply appropriate protocols when using ICT to safely create, communicate or share information. Students gain an understanding of the benefits and consequences of the use of ICT by individuals, groups and communities and the impact of the use of ICT on the fabric of society.

Investigating with ICT element

This element involves students investigating questions, topics or problems using ICT. Students use ICT to define and plan information searches of a range of primary and secondary sources. They locate, access, generate, organise and/or analyse data and information and apply criteria to verify the integrity and value of the digital data, information and sources using ICT.

Creating with ICT element

This element involves students using ICT to realise creative intentions and create solutions to challenges and tasks. Students use ICT to generate ideas, plans and processes that clarify a task or steps, and generate and manage digital solutions to challenges arising from learning activities or responding to a need or creative intention.

Communicating with ICT element

This element involves students understanding and using appropriate ICT to communicate with others. Students use ICT to share ideas and information to collaboratively construct



knowledge and digital solutions. They develop an understanding of the context when communicating using ICT, including a sense of the audience, the form of communication, the techniques used and the characteristics of the users and the technologies.

Managing and operating ICT element

This element involves students managing and operating ICT to investigate, create and communicate. Students apply technical knowledge and skills to select, use and troubleshoot appropriate digital technologies. They develop an understanding of hardware and software components, and operations of appropriate ICT systems, including their functions, processes, procedures and devices. Students apply technical knowledge and skills to efficiently and securely manage and maintain digital data.

Will an Acceptable Use Policy have to be signed?

Yes, and a copy of the relevant document will be available in Term 4, 2025. Devices can only be used in class at the teacher's discretion and in line with the Acceptable Use Policy and iPad Handbook policy.

What happens if a student uses a device inappropriately?

All students will need to read and understand the Internet Agreement and Responsible iPad Usage to be able to join their iPad to the school network. Students and their parents will be required to sign agreements that these policies will be adhered to and that consequences of policy breaches are understood before network access is provided.

Our Student Code of Conduct will outline the guidelines for inappropriate use of devices and the network. This process has operated successfully since 2019 with individual students and their families who have met with the administration. The documents are accessible on the school website.

What about security, theft and damage to the physical device?

iPads will be the responsibility of the student. Devices will be stored in classrooms at break times. Parents will be advised to review their insurance policies to ensure that the iPad is covered outside the home and to provide a suitable protective cover for the device. The school will accept no responsibility for the security or safety of the iPad.

How much of the time will students be using their own device

It is expected that on average students will use their device for approximately 20-30% of learning time at school during the iPad Program. However, this will vary between year groups and learning areas.

Will the school network be able to cope with the increase in mobile devices?

A thorough network audit has been undertaken to ensure that there is sufficient wireless network coverage for the number of students, devices and activities, which will be undertaken as part of the iPad Program. McDowall updated its Wireless Access Points in 2019.

What technical support will be available to students in school?



There will be no formal technical support other than providing wireless connectivity for students. Teachers will continue to be trained on how to best utilise technology to enhance the learning experience and learning outcomes of their students, although they are not expected to be technical experts.

What other devices were considered?

Whilst there is merit in the other platforms, the iPad has the largest variety of resources that can be used in a classroom environment. Although similar apps are available on Android devices, they do not always have the same functionality. To this extent, a single platform is preferable for classroom use with regard to maximising student outcomes.

For a number of years, the Department of Education Queensland has been working with schools in relation to Apple devices. Continued support and professional development is progressing in the area of mobile technology.

What apps are students required to have on their iPads?

A list of required apps will be posted on our website. Students must have the compulsory applications on their iPads for all lessons.

How can we monitor what students access on their device?

Web filtering has its benefits, however these systems are not foolproof and will never block 100% of inappropriate content. Should there be a concern with the access to certain content, it is advisable for parents to raise this with the classroom teacher.

We expect students to take responsibility for their use and their device. The school will assist students in developing this responsibility and resilience with the use of these devices. This will not only help with this device, but also with other communication tools such as phones.

To assist with securing the device, we will provide documentation including instructions on setting up, parental controls, privacy and restrictions options and links to Cyber-safety. Students will need to sign and abide by the Responsible Use of iPad form.

Can I bring any iPad?

The recommended device is:

Suggested iPad models:

- New Model – iPad (A16) or iPad Air (M3) 64GB model
- Pre-used – iPad (9th or 10th gen) 64GB

We strongly recommend the Wi-Fi only model over the 3G model to reduce the cost to parents and to ensure internet traffic is filtered.

iPads should be in a protective case to prevent/minimise accidental damage. Families will make their own decisions about where and how to purchase iPads and accessories.

How do I set it up? What help can I get?



Links to help instructions and videos are available on the Apple website and links will be emailed and posted on the school website.

What if I can't provide a device?

Students of families unable to provide a device will be supported with access to a shared ICT device during the school day.

Should I insure my child's iPad?

We strongly recommend that all personal electronic devices are insured against accidental damage, loss and theft. Personal electronic devices may be insured as separate items on your home and contents insurance. You should contact your insurer to discuss the availability of this option. Alternatively, there are insurers that work specifically in the portable electronic device market. We recommend you investigate available options and fully insure your child's device.

Do I need to purchase a protective case for my child's iPad?

Students must have a protective case protecting their iPad at all times. A protective case will help improve the longevity of the device and ensure minor drops and knocks will not cause expensive damage. Protective cases are readily available from a large range of stores and websites. However, it is recommended at minimum the case has a stand or support structure that allows the device to be supported upright while on the student's desk.

Do I need to purchase a Bluetooth keyboard to assist with word-processing requirements?

External keyboards are an optional device that families can decide on purchasing. It is suggested that you try the device before purchasing as their effectiveness varies from keyboard to keyboard. Some students also may find the keyboard more difficult to use than the touch keyboard.

What type of headphones are students allowed to use with their device?

In-the-ear headphones or over-the-ear headphones are both suitable for school use. Students will need a working pair to use during lesson time.

Can students charge iPads at school?

Students are required to ensure their iPads are fully charged and ready to use each school day. There may be opportunities to recharge at school but this is not going to always be possible.

Can students have personal information, application and games stored on their iPads?

Students are allowed to have games, music, videos and applications of their own choice stored on their iPads. However, use of the iPad that does not meet the signed ICT Agreement will result in students receiving disciplinary action. Students must also have sufficient memory available for any applications or work that is designated by their classroom teachers. If there is not enough memory, students may be required to remove some of these games, music or videos.

Does my iPad need to have Apple Intelligence?

No, your child does not need an iPad with Apple intelligence features for school learning. A



standard iPad provides all the necessary tools for effective learning, supporting a range of educational apps that enhance creativity, collaboration and critical thinking.