

Warranwood Primary School

1-to-1 iPad Program

FAQs



1. Who can I contact if I have further questions?

Questions regarding the 1-to-1 Program should be directed to Steve Albon, Tanya Barlow, our ICT coordinator or can be emailed to warranwood.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au. Your inquiry will be responded to as quickly as possible.

2. What sort of iPad should we purchase?

iPads range in price according to their specifications. Anything from an iPad 2 onwards will be fine for student use. iPad 1s are now getting old and not all apps we use work with them. Some families have used family owned iPads, or updated their own iPad and students get the hand-me-down! The iPad mini is perfectly adequate for school use, and at \$288 (current Officeworks price) they are considerably cheaper than they were 12 months ago!

3. Will a student be using their iPad in every subject every day?

A student will not be required to use the iPad at all times. The use of iPads will take place alongside a range of learning activities and methods of presenting their work. However the iPad is an essential learning tool that must be available to be utilised when required. We have found that the iPads are used for about 2 hours per day. And of course a lot of work is still done using pen and paper! Students will be notified if the iPads are required for specialist classes.

4. Where will a student store their iPad when it is not in use? Eg. Lunchtime

Students must store and secure their iPad, in their protective case, in their tubs during recess and lunchtimes. The Senior School building is always kept locked when no staff are in attendance. If a student accidentally leaves their iPad at school overnight, staff will lock it away if possible. The building is alarmed each night, following cleaning.

5. Can a student add their own software to their iPad?

Yes. With the authority of the iTunes account holder, students may add their own apps to the device. School apps are required on the first 2 pages/screens. Personal apps can be on the next screens. These personal apps should be closed when at school, rather than running in the background. This assists with our spot checks and with efficient running of the device.

6. Is my child expected to take their iPad home every day?

Yes, students are expected to take the iPad to and from school each day. This enables them to fully utilise the device at home and at school. It is expected that the iPads will be charged overnight ready for a full day's use at school. Parents are asked to ensure that the iPad is used responsibly and cared for appropriately in the home environment. iPads must be transported within their protective cases inside the student's school bag to and from school. Note: iPads and drink bottles don't mix!

7. How much time should my child spend on their iPad at home?

While we expect some homework tasks to be completed on the iPads we remind students regularly that their iPad is not to be charged or used in their bedroom, that they shouldn't be used for longer than an hour at a time and that posture is very important. It is sensible parenting to make rules about technology usage and be strict about them!

8. Does the iPad need a passcode?

No, we prefer that the iPads do not have a passcode. However, if a parent requests this, the passcode must be given to the teacher, and the teacher notified if the passcode is changed.

9. Can I recharge my iPad at school?

No. It is expected that the iPad is fully charged upon arrival at school and will not need charging during the day. Student battery chargers are to remain at home and not brought to school. A fully charged iPad easily lasts the day.

10. What happens if the battery goes flat?

Students are required to bring their iPad to school **fully charged** every day. Alternative means of working, research or presentation will need to be negotiated with the teacher. The same things will happen if a student leaves their iPad at home.

11. Can other people use the iPad? Can we bring an iPad we already own?

While it is a family owned device, the iPad is required for the student's education, so it is recommended that it is not used by anybody else. If you already have an iPad for use in the program then that is fine.

12. Will the student apps on the iPad be private?

Students can expect their iPads to be periodically inspected and monitored for inappropriate usage. Students and parents need to be aware that apps stored locally on the iPad or on school servers are not private.

13. Will students have access to the Internet at school?

Each iPad will be configured to access the school's Wi-Fi network when students are at school. This Wi-Fi is through the DEECD Netspace network and has blocks on inappropriate and selected sites, including some social networking sites, gambling, etc.

14. Does my home need Internet access?

No. Students will be able to access the information they need when they are at school. Even when not connected to the Internet, iPads are still very useful tools for learning. Of course, if you have Internet access at home, you can connect the iPad to your internet connection.

15. How will they be monitored during class, how are teachers going to be able to ensure all students are using iPad for their correct purpose?

Teachers and support staff frequently monitor students for appropriateness of all activities and conversations. "Spot checks" are conducted regularly on students' iPads to ensure they are being used responsibly and appropriately.

16. What happens if a family chooses not to purchase an iPad?

While we expect all students to have an iPad there are a small set of iPads available for shared student use in the Senior School. This does not imply that each of these students will have personal access to these iPads at all times – they will be a shared resource. 1-to-1 or BYOD programs are now commonplace in primary and secondary schools, due to the increased levels of student engagement with their learning.

17. Is there a choice of other tablets or is it Apple only? If so, why?

We have decided to use Apple tablets because of their capabilities and unbeaten range of educational Apps. We have also investigated Microsoft platforms and, similarly to nearly all other schools, found them unsuitable for our educational purpose. DEECD ICT infrastructure will not support Android devices. iPads just work!! We have had virtually no technical issues this year.

18. Will a \$40 iTunes card last the whole year?

Most apps we use are free. The basic app list leaves some space for purchases of other appropriate paid apps through the year.

19. What will be done to maintain handwriting skills?

The maintenance of basic skills, such as handwriting will be an important aspect of what we do. While the iPad vastly extends the range of presentation methods, students will still be expected to use handwriting extensively.

20. How do we stop children starting Facebook account etc?

Social media is an important aspect of 21st century life. At school we teach our students about appropriate use of social media, cyber safety and "netiquette". Children use many forms of social media, including Club Penguin, Kik Messenger, Snapchat and Facebook. Facebook currently has a minimum age use of 13, and can provide a reasonable level of privacy. It is your decision as parents what you allow your children to access. Being open and frank, having access to your children's accounts and giving them increasing independence are important factors in maintaining their online security. Trying to stop them being involved in social media is becoming increasingly difficult and may not support them in becoming responsible, clever digital citizens.

21. What sort of file management system would the iPads have to keep a record of work that the children have completed?

We have used cloud based programs called Edmodo and Evernote, which allow students to communicate with and give and gain feedback from teachers and other students. We will be moving to Google Apps and Google Education in 2015.

22. How is work produced on the iPad assessed?

Through the use of Google apps, saving work on to the school servers and the development of digital portfolios, teachers will assess the work of students. If all else fails, we have set up the ability to print from digital devices via our Wi-Fi.

23. Do the children have to have email accounts? If yes, are the email accounts set up through the school, eg a .edu account?

The school has a unique education account system where each student has an account. This has been in operation as part of our cyber safety program for a number of years. Each address uses the suffix @warranwood.vic.edu.au

24. How will this program enhance and improve my children's learning?

We investigated the introduction of a 1-to-1 iPad trial for over a year before introducing the program in 2014. We visited other schools, looked into current research and attended professional learning activities, we surveyed parents and students and, unlike other schools with such programs, put in place an 8-week trial at the school. It was our considered and professional opinion that such a program would enhance the learning opportunities for all our students. Otherwise we wouldn't have done it!! The reality of the program in 2014 has more than met our expectations. The level of engagement with learning, the ability to present work in a range of ways, the research capability, the collaborative learning – all these things and more!!

25. What happens if my child's iPad is damaged or lost at school?

All care is taken by the school to ensure the iPads are safely stored and cared for; however it is a DEECD requirement that the school is not able to accept liability for items brought to school. Parents are advised to contact their insurance company to ascertain the extent of home and contents insurance. In 2014 a very small number of iPads have had some screen damage as a result of misuse.