MacKillop Catholic College

iPad Program

Questions and Answers:

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**College Setup**
Devices and Student Learning

How do they improve learning?
With greater access to real-time information, digital learning resources, educational software and collaborative workspaces, students experience higher levels of motivation and engagement in their learning. Typically students experience initial improvement in areas such as organisational and technological skills, revision, writing and editing work. With the development of presentations and other multimedia projects, students experience subsequent improvement in analytical, presentation and speaking skills.

Involvement in ‘virtual workspaces’ creates opportunities for collaboration and communication, improving relationships in the classroom through a greater level of interaction between students and their teachers. A networked environment, where it is easy to share developing work and research with peers and teachers, is the environment students will live and work in during secondary school and the future and we need to prepare them for that world. Students working together and providing solutions to real-world problems will create links beyond the classroom and move levels of thinking beyond a simple knowledge framework to complex analysis and evaluation. Increased levels of learning both in and out of school, with an emphasis on higher order thinking, creative thinking and expression, will be promoted.

Why iPad?

Why has the College selected the iPad?

Here are some educational reasons for using the iPad:

- The iPad is a personal device and reasonably costed to act as a 1-to-1, anywhere, anytime learning device;
- The abundance of applications and access to information on a vast range of topics allows students to pursue areas in which they are interested;
- Light and portable, easily carried in the College bag to and from school;
- Users to date are finding that through the use of different apps, students are able to choose the type of product they construct to demonstrate their understanding;
- Notes can be kept in one spot, commented on and available anywhere;
- The iPad is proving to be a very important tool for students with specific learning needs and the device can be tailored to support them;
- The touch interface correlates to the technology students use in their everyday life and allows a high level of interactivity;
- A 10 hour battery life means the iPad can be used throughout the entire school day;
- The instant startup of the iPad means greater use of time;
- There is anywhere, anytime access to current information that contains text, sound, images and interactivity. Information is represented with rich multimedia and data visualisation techniques;
• Heavy school books could, in time, be replaced by eBooks and these can be updated in a timely fashion. Documents and tasks can be uploaded to the College network by the teacher and downloaded onto the iPad by the student. Texts and documents can be annotated and commented on by multiple students and teachers;
• The iPad is seen to be an intuitive device and minimal technical support is required;
• The iPad can be used with peripherals. For example the iPad can be slotted into a case which connects to a full size keyboard for extended periods of writing; and
• Voice recognition apps can also be useful for inputting large amounts of text and is another option worth investigating.


Why did we stay with iPad 2 and not the latest model?
Following our trial, it was decided that the significant cost advantage of the iPad 2 outweighed the better screen resolution and other enhancements of the newer version. Staff experiences so far and discussions with other Colleges following a similar path, all agreed that the enhancements did not offer enough to forgo the cost savings for families. It is recognised that in the years to come, the iPad will change configuration and some students will have iPad 2 and others will have iPad 3. Whilst this is inevitable and outside our control, we do not see insurmountable problems for students as the device is very good at allowing backward compatibility.

How will they be used in the classroom?
The use of devices in the classroom will evolve over time as students and teachers become more familiar and therefore will be able to optimise the advantage of their use to support teaching and learning in the classroom, wherever that classroom may be. For example, we may soon see a class where students create a podcast of their original poetry, accompanied by a soundtrack they have written and enhanced with their own digital images to share with the world. The device can be used to record and document information, then share learning.

In Art, students can research projects on various artists then use the iPad as a medium to create their own drawings and paintings. Those same students can take a virtual tour of the great art galleries of the world, viewing the works and reading annotated notes from various sources. Students in Science could attach probes for data analysis and Physical Education may involve analysing patterns of movement through video.

Staff and students will collaborate and use the device as a tool that develops the student as information seeker, analyser and evaluator, problem-solver and decision-maker. They will use programs to create ways in which to communicate their findings and become publishers of their own work.

The College has adopted Schoology as our Learning Management System and each class will have an on-line classroom with the teaching program and all the resources for that class. Students will have access to this from their iPad both at the College and at home via the internet.
Ownership

Who owns the iPad?
Once payments begin, families assume ownership of the device and are responsible for its care and upkeep, installing the required College apps and keeping it charged ready for school each day. Parents must also provide insurance cover for the device under their Home Insurance policy or the like. As part of the partnership arrangement with the College, there will be certain conditions that must be met for the device to be included on our College network. If these conditions are not met then the Principal and IT staff reserve the right to exclude the device from the network, which means loss of Internet access and College mail for student iPads. Students can store their own appropriate private material on the device and this includes their own apps. The College reserves the right to ask students to remove inappropriate apps when they are at school. If storage space becomes an issue then College related items must be given precedence over private material.

Can I supply my own iPad for my child? Do I need to buy it through the College?
Whilst it may be easier for some families for the College to supply an iPad, we also accept that for other families they may wish to supply their own iPad. Families may purchase a similar iPad 2 or newer model remembering that a 3G model should not have the SIM at school. But we do ask that once an order is placed that families honour that order as we can’t return them once ordered. One condition that must be met is that the iPad is for the sole use of the Year 7 student and not a shared device with the family. This is because the iPad is viewed as a personal device and for the exclusive use of one person, not a device that can be easily shared amongst a number of people.

Costs
Latest pricing indicates an educational bundled price for the iPad 2 of around $408 including a 1 year warranty.

Parent Involvement

How will parents/guardians be involved in this initiative?
Parent involvement will be integral to the success of this initiative. The College recognises that the introduction of iPads places not only financial burdens on parents, but pressures at home with administering and supervising the use of the iPad by their children. The College sees this program as a partnership between home and school and parents will play an extremely important role.

Parents and students will both sign an agreement that clearly defines their roles and responsibilities in this initiative. By signing the policy, parents and students both agree to abide by the guidelines and both are prepared to be held accountable, if problems arise. Parent information evenings will be very important and parents should use these opportunities to ask questions and to keep informed of how these devices are assisting the learning and teaching within the College. College newsletters and our website will provide
updates to the whole College community about the use of the devices by students and teachers in and out of the classroom.

We plan to host evening sessions at the College that will provide training for parents in using the iPad so that they can keep up, or maybe follow their child’s progress with a little more knowledge and confidence. Students will also be asked to work with their parents and teach them about the device. In this way parents will have a positive lead into the College life of their son/daughter and have an opportunity to share their world, beyond homework deadlines and College reports. The very nature of teenagers makes it difficult for some parents to engage them in conversation about school. We plan to make the iPad an avenue for parent-student discussion and a learning opportunity for both.

**Student Safety and Online Privacy**

**Will students use computers ‘too much’ for College work?**
The iPad device will complement the existing College curriculum by providing appropriate digital learning tools as well as more traditional learning tools. The goals of the curriculum are supported, not supplanted, by the use of 1-to-1 devices. Students will use the iPad where they serve a purpose, for instance, in research, data analysis and generating presentations. Wireless access will allow for ‘just-in-time’ learning where students can search for information or collaborate with others in a real-time context. Students will be able to use their College files at home and to collaborate with their peers and teachers.

**What if students play on the devices during the College day instead of going outside for recess?**
The devices will provide additional support for student learning, and therefore students will be supervised in the use of the iPad, as they would be for any learning activity. This means that at this early stage, use by students during recess and lunch will not occur and students will not be taking the iPad into the playground during those times.

**Use of the iPad at home**
Due to the very nature of the device, parents will need to set some strict guidelines at home as to its use. The iPad should not be treated any differently to any other computer. As with all computer equipment, it should be used in a general use area of the home not secreted away in a bedroom. Realistically, the iPad may need to be used at a desk in the student’s room and it is for this reason parents may need to set time limits for its use and also establish a charging area in the kitchen/lounge area and not left in the bedroom overnight. As it is the responsibility of parents and students to have the device charged each day ready for school, the charging station in a common use area, such as the kitchen, will alleviate the issues of them being used in bedrooms after hours.

One request for help from parents that we often get is to do with monitoring Internet use at home. The best advice that we can suggest is for parents to take control of the wireless internet password. In this way you can turn on Internet access and off again at the iPad or at the modem. Set rules for Internet access the same way TV viewing is monitored. Controlling the password gives you control of the situation and the negotiation.
What about safe internet use?
Appropriate use of the internet service within the College network is closely monitored by a filtering system which allows for inappropriate content blocking by a regularly updated list of categories and sites. This does not apply to use of devices outside of the College network. Parents will be responsible for monitoring Internet use at home and establishing a suitable filtering system, if they deem it necessary. Education and support are important for maintaining acceptable use of devices, particularly in relation to Internet access. A specific policy has been developed which parents and students will be required to sign. However, it is important that teachers, students and parents share the responsibility to ensure safe and responsible use of devices at all times.

Will children be safe carrying 1-to-1 devices?
Overseas research has shown that insurance companies have reported very few incidents while students travel to and from College. Students should be specifically warned not to take the devices out in public and to carry them in the protective cover provided, which should be placed within their College bags. Use on bus stops or in malls is to be actively discouraged and should be discussed with students as a safety risk. Instances of students ignoring this advice will be dealt with seriously as they add to the risk for all students. The iPad should stay in the College bag between home and school.

Are these devices going to add to the heavy loads students carry from home to the College?
The device has been deliberately chosen for a number of reasons, including its weight specifications. The device, in time, may alleviate the need for students to carry calculators and some textbooks, further reducing the weight of items students need to carry to school. The device should not be packed into the bottom of an oversized backpack with other books and items, because this can lead to a compression fracture of the screen.

What are the OH & S issues around using iPads in all lessons all day? (neck strain, falling over electrical cables, earphones etc)
The usual OH&S issues for computer use will apply to the iPad as it would for any computer device in the College. Correct positioning, lighting, hand alignment and rest periods will be the responsibility of staff and students. It is envisaged that students will need to take particular responsibility for their own needs in this area and they will be encouraged to monitor their own health response to the device. As students will recharge the device at home each night, there will not be recharging and power cords in the classroom. Whilst the device will have a place in many lessons, there will be a number of lessons each day where the device may not be used at all.

Will the student files on the device be private?
Students can expect their device to be periodically inspected and monitored for appropriate usage. College personnel may request access to the browser history and/or caches as well as any and all files belonging to the student resident on the iPad as well as stored on the College servers. Students and parents need to be aware that files stored locally or on College servers are not private.
What about social media sites, such as Facebook? Are they going to be blocked?

One of the aims of the program is to educate students about the appropriate use of the device in various situations. Whilst Facebook and similar sites can be damaging, it is the misuse of its members that is the problem, not the site itself. Learning how to be good digital citizens in our current and future world is just as important as learning to become a valued and contributory member of our wider society. Facebook can be utilised for positive educational purposes by students and teachers alike and there are many examples of how that can occur.

Cyberbullying is simply a more sophisticated form of bullying and bullying is a societal problem that has plagued us since people gathered in social settings. Education is vital if bullying is to be tackled and cyberbullying forms part of the wider education program employed by the College.

Software for iPads

How do students purchase the apps?

In 2013, Apple introduced Volume Purchasing of apps in Australia for educational institutions. This program enables schools to purchase apps at half price for distribution to students. This means we no longer need to use iTunes cards for access to apps. An IT levy will be applied to all students in March each year and part of this Levy will fund apps purchases for students. This list of apps is automatically updated on student iPads as staff requests them. Students may buy credit via iTunes cards for personal purchases of apps.

The use of the iTunes Store for the supply of apps is also one of the reasons why Apple was chosen to supply the student device as the supply and distribution of the programs is via a controlled and moderated space, unlike the alternatives from Windows and Android.

Do students need their own iTunes account?

Students will be expected to have their own College iTunes account that controls the download of apps for College use. Students can also have their own private iTunes account so that they can purchase music and non-College apps. It is suggested that students have separate College and private accounts as this makes the use of iTunes cards easier to manage. Parents will not link their credit cards to the student iTunes account as this creates too many problems through temptation and accountability. If you find that there is no other option than a credit card for payment when creating the student Apple ID, then you have not followed the instructions.

Can they install their own apps?

Students may install their school apps, games or otherwise and any free apps that they think may assist them in their College work or recreation. The College reserves the right to monitor these installations and if they deem it appropriate, the College will ask parents to remove questionable apps if they interfere with student work habits or are inappropriate for College. It must be stressed that this device is an educational device and not a games console for student recreation.
Loss or Damage and Insurance

What if it gets stolen or damaged? Will I have to replace the stolen iPad if it happens at College?

Parents will need to consider some form of risk insurance for the device with either a special policy or cover under your home insurance. It should cover theft, loss or damage as the College insurance does not cover student devices at any time. If you wish to add it to your Home & Contents Insurance, you will need to contact your insurer and have it added to your specified items list. In the case of a stolen/lost or damaged iPad, it will be the responsibility of parents to get the device replaced or repaired. Replacement cost would more than likely be at retail pricing unless the College has any spare devices that could be offered for sale.

Research indicates that an iPad added to the Home and Contents Insurance policy adds approx. $10 to the premium per year. This is an indication only and you will need to negotiate this with your insurer. One insurer indicated that a stand-alone policy for a device such as an iPad, under Personal Effects Cover, would be approximately $52 per year for a value of $450 with a $100 excess. Once again, this is an indication only and this may vary with insurers.

Are personal iPads covered by the College’s insurance in the event of a College disaster, such as fire/flood/theft?
The College’s insurance policy does NOT cover personal items owned by staff or students and that is why all personal equipment brought to the College must be covered by your own insurance. Check details above.

Misuse by Students

What happens if my child continually abuses the privilege of the iPad? Will he/she have to do without it?

Loss of the iPad will cause subsequent interruption of the teaching and learning program for that student and will be avoided as much as possible. However, students who fail to heed the warnings and who fail to learn how to be good digital citizens in and out of the classroom will be sanctioned in some way. As much as possible we will avoid removing the iPad from students but eventually that may be the best sanction to affect a change in behaviour.

How will teachers prevent students from playing games or being distracted by the iPad?
The iPad will be no different to any other distraction in the classroom and will be dealt with accordingly. An important component of this trial will be to educate our students about the appropriateness of their iPad use. The use of phones and social media tools are a challenge for our society in general and many adults set poor examples for our students and need some educating themselves. Teachers will control distractions in classrooms and appropriate iPad use as a normal part of the lesson. Repeat offenders who continually use and are distracted by games on the iPad will have them deleted from the device.
Care of iPad

Use of an iPad case
Due to the fact that it is a personal device, it was decided that the provision of a protective case was to be left to individual families. The choice of protective case should take into account the expected hard life it will endure around school and home and in the College bag. Please discuss with the College if you are concerned about the wide choice available and we will make some recommendations at the parent information evening for you to follow. In general terms a case must be protective around the corners of the device and cover both the back and front. The case must be named on the inside and remain on the device at all times. As the iPad is an educational device for your student, decorating the cover is not encouraged and inappropriate inclusions on the cover will be asked to be removed. Breaches of this may require a new case if the original condition cannot be restored.

Transport to and from College
The iPad should be transported to and from the College in the College bag and in its heavy duty case and at no time should it be on display or used whilst in transit. This is a safety issue and protects the device from damage and the student from harassment or theft. Refer to Student Safety section above.

Charging the iPad
It will be the responsibility of parents and students to ensure the iPad is charged each evening in a suitable place in the home and not in student bedrooms. If a student arrives at College and the iPad is not charged they will not have use of the device until it is charged in the Library. There will be no loan devices available until the student device is charged and so charging becomes an important aspect of student’s management of the device.

College Setup
The setting up of the device will be controlled at the College when the student receives the iPad. Families supplying their own iPad for students will be required to have the device ready on the day the College stipulates for configuration, usually the first week of Term. We are using a management system that configures and monitors the device on-line and will be explained to students at the time of the rollout. This same system allows us to monitor the devices to ensure they comply with our conditions of use and controls the distribution of apps.