

Parent FAQ's 1 to 1- iPad Program

These Frequently Asked Questions try to address some of the most common questions parents have in relation to a 1:1 program.

What is a one-to-one 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.

Which year levels will be involved in the one-to-one program?

In 2020, Years 3 and 5 will have a one to one program.

1-to-1 devices and student learning

Why iPads instead of computer labs?

- Teachers report that when computers are in labs, they use technology less often for instruction because of the difficulty of scheduling time in the lab and transporting students there.
- More widespread access to computers makes it possible for students and teachers in schools to transition from occasional, supplemental use of computers for instruction to more frequent, integral use of technology across a multitude of settings. Providing students with ubiquitous access to wirelessly connected computers has the potential to transform learning environments and improve student learning outcomes.
- Furthermore, 24/7 access to computers makes it possible for students to access a wider array of resources to support their learning, to communicate with peers and their teachers, and to become fluent in their use of the technological tools of the 21st century workplace.
- iPads are also cheaper, lighter and more flexible and creative in their use than laptops.

How can 1-to-1 devices 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 with 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, their peers and their teachers.

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Will students use computers 'too much' for schoolwork?

The 1-to-1 device will complement the existing school curriculum by providing appropriate digital learning tools in balance with more traditional learning tools.

- The goals of the curriculum are supported, not supplanted, by the use of 1-to-1 devices. Students will use 1-to-1 devices where they serve a purpose, and 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 collaborate with their peers on projects through the secure BCE Student Portal.

Will learning outcomes be evaluated differently?

- Students will continue to be evaluated in line with The Australian Curriculum. The devices complement the existing school curriculum by providing digital learning tools that link in with planned classroom activities.

How will 1-to-1 devices be used in the classroom?

- This is a technology-rich world and students are immersed in digital technology in their out-of-school lives. The use of devices in the classroom will evolve over time as students and teachers become more familiar with them. Therefore they will be able to optimise the advantage of their use to support teaching and learning in the classroom, wherever that classroom may be.

What about handwriting?

- Handwriting will continue to have a place in the classroom as well as the use of the keyboard.

What about safe Internet use?

- Teachers will supervise students as they would for any learning activity as they create and maintain a safe, comfortable and learning-focused classroom. Appropriate use of the Internet service within the BCE network is closely monitored by a filtering system that allows for inappropriate content blocking by a regularly updated list of categories and sites.
- Education and support are important for maintaining acceptable use of devices, particularly in relation to Internet access. Like mobile phones, email and messaging systems can be used for unacceptable purposes and to bully others. It is essential that all members of the community, students, parents and staff are aware of this potential and also of the school's Bullying and Acceptable Use policies. Any incident of bullying or unacceptable use should be investigated and dealt with in accordance with these policies.

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Will the student files on the device be private?

- Students can expect their device to be periodically inspected and monitored for appropriate usage. School 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 laptop as well as stored on the SharePoint sites and BCE web-based drives. Students and parents need to be aware that files stored locally or on SharePoint sites and BCE web-based drives are not private. Please note: If this clause is used by a school, then under privacy considerations, students and parents must be fully aware of this condition. It is therefore recommended that such a policy be placed in the User Agreement that is signed by both parent and student.

Will students take the device home?

- Initially all devices will remain at school. All devices will be stored in a secure location and be charged overnight.

What happens when the student finishes Yr 6?

- During the final months, an agreement will be negotiated for a pay-out figure. This will depend on the status of payments and the condition of the machines. There is no expectation that parents purchase the machine at the end of the 3-year period.

How much will it cost and how will the school pay for it?

An IT Levy is included in the School Fees. All students pay an IT levy of \$150. Students in 1 to 1 classes pay an additional \$250 IT levy to assist in the funding of iPads, additional technical support, cases etc.

How will parents continue to be informed about integration of 1-to-1 devices into the curriculum?

- The school's newsletters and websites will provide updates to the whole school community about the use of the devices by students and teachers in and out of the classroom. Ongoing parent information evenings will assist parents with the use of the device at home.