



The Gap State School 1:1 iPad Q&A



Given the costs associated with upfront payment for a BYO option, what options have been explored to negotiate lower costs? e.g. lower costs through bulk purchase.

We are exploring ways to get a lower cost for families. This may be through an Apple purchasing portal or through a retailer who can offer a great price. If the decision is made to move ahead with the 1:1 BYO model we will be letting families know what we can offer.

How will the devices be secured?

iPads will be kept in the classroom when not in use and, if there is no staff member present, the classroom is kept locked. Under a BYO model iPads will go home with students each day. Under the lease arrangement iPads will be secured using lockable cupboards and secure storage facilities just as our current school iPads are.

Will the school insurance policy cover damage or theft?

Under the lease arrangement the school will be responsible for managing the iPads, including replacement of any stolen devices.

If the school moves ahead with the BYO model it is recommended that parents organise insurance for their child's iPad.

I am concerned about the impact of extensive increase in screen time on behaviour and attention and the increased risk of addictive behaviours.

We are already using iPads in the classroom regularly and while the time spent using iPads will increase, it will not increase significantly. Students use the iPads for a variety of reasons in the classroom, and not for one particular game or app meaning that it is unlikely they will become addicted to its use. If issues do arise parents and teachers will work together to mitigate and address these issues. We have the best interests of your child in mind.

Are the students allowed to download personal apps?

Under a lease arrangement, the school will manage the installation and updating of the apps required for school. Students will not be able to install other apps.

Under a BYO model, we encourage parents to limit the apps installed on the iPad to the ones requested for that year level. If personal apps are installed, they will not be able to use them at school.

Are there parental controls?

Absolutely. That's one of the reasons iPads are recommended for schools because they offer a great number of accessibility and restriction options to help parents and the school ensure the most appropriate use of the iPads. If we move forward with a BYO model we will be offering information sessions and instructions to support parents to utilise these features.



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I don't agree with this method of teaching in primary schools. In my view the concerns and negative impact including mental health, posture, eyesight, fine motor skills, literature and spelling skills, and normal interaction and communication outweighs any positive outcomes.

Use of technology is part into the Australian Curriculum and is used in all state primary schools in Queensland. Not only is it a subject area, *Digital Technologies*, but Information Communication Technology (ICT) is one of the general capabilities that is embedded across all learning areas. Regardless of whether we implement a 1:1 program, students will continue to experience devices such as iPads regularly as part of their learning.

The ICT Review committee read a significant number of meta analyses and peer reviewed research articles, a summary of which is available to parents. As a committee we carefully considered all of the pros and cons identified and made sure we could implement strategies to address any concerns so that students can benefit from this classroom tool. Screen time will be monitored and mandatory down time will be implemented. The impact on eyesight stems from close up work, which students do every day when reading and writing and therefore we already have strategies in place to mitigate these concerns. In the iPad policy and student charter there will be clear guidelines around screen time, breaks to rest eyes and correct posture requirements. Normal interaction and communication will continue to occur in the classroom. The iPad is a tool to support learning, just like a book or whiteboard, and does not replace interactions in the classroom. Communication skills and oral language, as well as literacy and spelling skills, remains a key component of our curriculum and the teaching and learning that occurs in the classroom. The research and the experiences of teachers currently using iPads in the classroom all indicate that communication and interaction can be improved through the use of open ended apps in a collaborative manner. Utilising technology as a tool in the classroom is a well thought out, considered decision and we believe the positive outcomes make this initiative worthwhile. We have the best interests of your child in mind.

Where can I go to get more information?

We will be hosting another **Information Evening on Monday 11th November from 6-8pm** in the resource centre. The session will include a presentation from committee members as well as an opportunity to ask questions. While everyone is welcome to attend this session, our target audience for is parents with children in year 3 and below.

I still have more questions.

If you have more questions please use the following link and we will answer them in the near future through the Gazette, another Q&A response or on Monday night at the information evening.

[Q&A Link](#)