



Here's a **recommended set of minimum requirements** (and suggestions) for parents purchasing an iPad for their child entering the **3-year 1:1 iPad program (Years 4-6)**.

✔ Minimum requirements

- The iPad must be **compatible with iPadOS 17** (i.e., can install it). According to various sources: supported models include iPad (6th gen) and later; iPad Air (3rd gen) and later; iPad mini (5th gen) and later; iPad Pro from 10.5" onward.
- **Wi-Fi capable only**, no SIM capability
- **Check the model:** In Settings → General → About you can see the "Model" or "Model Number" to verify compatibility.
- **Check battery health** (if refurbished or used). A device with degraded battery may struggle to last full school days by Year 6.
- **Budget for accessories:** A sturdy protective case, good charger, keyboard or stylus.
- **Storage matters:** While 64 GB might suffice initially, 128 GB gives a comfortable margin for growth.
- **Warranty / support:** Consider AppleCare+ or equivalent, if you want peace of mind over 3 years.

Because the device will be used for **3 years**, and the school's management system (Intune) may raise technical demands, it's wise to aim for something a little better than just "barely meets" the minimum.

📄 Sample compatible models

Here are some models that **meet the minimum** and some that are **better for future-proofing**:

- Apple iPad (6th generation) – This is about the earliest iPad that supports iPadOS 17. It meets the minimum but is "just" there, so may be less future-proof.
- Apple iPad Air (4th generation) – A stronger choice: newer, faster, better spec for longevity.
- Apple iPad mini (5th generation) – Smaller format; if the child prefers a lighter / more portable device, but ensure storage is sufficient.
- Apple iPad Air (13-inch) – Higher-end; more expensive but will last longer and handle more demanding apps.
- Apple iPad Pro (12.9-inch 5th gen) – Premium device; may be overkill for the school program but certainly "future-proof".
- Apple iPad (10th generation) – If available, this standard iPad newer generation can be a balanced choice: supports iPadOS 17 plus more headroom.

🇦🇺 Pricing & Storage Suggestions (Australia, Oct 2025 approx)

- Budget models (9th gen etc) might be around **\$500-650** depending on storage and deals.
- Balanced models (10th gen, standard latest) around **\$600-800**.
- Mid premium (Air 4th gen) around **\$800-1,000**.
- Higher end (Air M2, large screen, Pro) can go **\$1,000+**.
- **Storage:** Aim for **at least 64GB**, but if budget allows 128GB is wise for a 3-year horizon (apps + school files + OS updates)
- **Accessories** (case, charger, keyboard/stylus if required) should be factored in.