Prep Tablet 1:1 Program

Technology now forms a vital part of a high quality, fully rounded education in the 21st century. Young people are now using technology to assist them in life and learning. We feel the need that students must be able to access digital information, tools and resources from anywhere, any time and in ways that lead to a deeper engagement and understanding.

Frequently Asked Questions

What options do we have to provide our child with a tablet?
Option 1: Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) minimum requirements
- iPad 16GB WiFi (3G devices are acceptable with sim card removed)
- Hard cover
- Insurance (parents/guardians need to provide their own insurance)

Option 2: Lease from EPS*
- iPad 4 16GB WiFi only
- Hard cover
- AppleCare
- Insurance (details released at a later date)

* A leasing option can only be offered if required numbers are obtained. This is due to a minimum bulk order that must be placed. Further details will be available at a later date.

Can Android based tablets be used?
Presently we cannot guarantee that Android tablets will be able to access the internet through the school network. Some devices running Android's firmware of 4.2.1 or greater may be able to connect, though that will depend on the device. If you already own an Android device then we will be more than happy to try to connect the device. We do not recommend purchasing an Android device for the purposes of the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program.

Can WiFi and 3G tablets be used?
If you are BYOD then both WiFi and 3G tablets can be used as a part of the program. However all sim cards in 3G devices will need to be removed. Students will have access to the school WiFi network during these times.

What if we feel the time is not right to take part in a 1:1 program?
This program is strictly an 'opt in' program. If you feel that it is not right for your child or your family at this time then your child will continue to have some access to the school's shared iPads and other computing devices.

What are the leasing payments and timeline of these payments? (If this option is available)
A definitive monetary figure cannot be given at this time, as it will depend on the deal in place with our supplier and the number of families wishing to take-up this offer. Further details will be provided at a later date.

Payments would be made at the beginning of each term and this would be calculated over a two-year period.

What happens at the end of the lease?
At the end of the lease it would be possible to purchase the iPad for a small fee or return the iPad to the school.

How can we insure a BYOD?
Personally owned devices can be insured through most home and contents insurance packages. We suggest you speak with your insurer for further details. The onus is on individual families to arrange insurance for BYODs.

Which iPad model would you recommend? iPad 1 (no camera), iPad 2 or iPad 4?
All devices are welcome at this stage, however the benefit of an iPad 4 is its ‘shelf life’. (Apple has in the past maintained firmware support for the two most recent devices only).
What about iPad minis?
Due to the small screen, it is preferable that iPad minis are not used for the 1:1 program. Students in Prep are still developing their fine motor control and can find some of the learning apps we use challenging on a device this size.

Can my child use a device that is shared amongst other family members?
Yes. Our BYOD option enables students to bring a device from home. Parents may have applications they wish to have on the tablet and this is fine. Please be aware that all applications on tablets that come to school need to be appropriate for a school environment. Staff will be conducting regular checks of the devices in accordance with our ‘Acceptable Use’ policy, to ensure safety for all students.

Where one device is shared between two students at school the relevant teachers will be informed and arrangements can be made to allow for a device to be shared between siblings wherever possible. At other times Level 1 students will have limited access to shared school devices.

How do you differentiate between parent and child apps on a shared device?
We suggest you sort your applications into folders. For example “Mum’s apps”, “Dad’s Apps”, “School Apps” etc.

How will the apps be managed?
Apps will need to be managed at home. Students will be sent home with a core app list. We ask that parents sync the apps onto the device. This will be required approximately once a semester.

How much will core learning apps cost?
Families will be asked to purchase a $50 iTunes card to load these apps onto their device. The cost of apps across a two year period should not exceed $50.

What is the time frame for the roll out?
If we gain a 70-80% participation uptake, we hope to integrate the program early Term Three 2013.

How do we ensure that other children don’t use my child’s device?
Similar to the classroom expectations set at the beginning of the year, we will set up strict expectations with the students. This will include a focus on respecting each others’ device. These expectations will be enforced from day one and monitored closely.

Are Prep students responsible enough to be trusted with a tablet at school?
Over the past four years we have integrated the use of tablets in our daily program. During this period the Prep students have never damaged or mistreated the technology. We have experienced only respect and care from all students. Expectations on how the tablets are used and treated at school will be set out clearly from day one.

Where will the tablets be stored during assembly, recess and lunchtime breaks?
The tablets will be stored in a lockable cupboard during break times.

Is the internet configurable at home with an iPad?
 iPads are very easy to connect to the internet. At school we use a ‘proxy’ to ensure children are able to connect to the internet safely. A proxy acts as a kind of screening wall to ensure that students are only able to access approved material. At home when the iPad connects to the internet there will be no such ‘proxy’. The device should remember its settings at home and at school and will not require changing.

Do Android devices and iPads have the same apps.
Broadly speaking yes. However there may be some apps available on iPads that are not available on Android devices. Where this applies to ‘core’ apps students with Android devices would still have access to necessary technology or other alternatives to complete tasks.

“If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow.” John Dewey

We are fully aware that the students we are now teaching are:

• More self-directed
• More inclined to collaborate

• Better equipped to capture information
• More orientated to being their own ‘modes of production’

• More reliant on feedback from peers