

1-to-1 Learning Frequently Asked Questions

*From the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
with additional information specific to Newlands Primary School*

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Introduction

These Frequently Asked Questions support the 1-to-1 program. 1-to-1 learning is where each student and teacher has one internet-connected iPad for use in the classroom and at home.

1-to-1 devices and student learning

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, 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 school files at home and be able to collaborate with their peers on projects through social networking.

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 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, their peers 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.

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.

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. Schools can either capitalise on young people's affinity for technology or fail to engage them in learning, and be perceived as more and more irrelevant.

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 as well as clay animations. Students in science could attach probes for data analysis and physical education may involve analysing patterns of movement.

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.

Will learning outcomes be evaluated differently?

Students will continue to be evaluated against the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). The devices complement the existing school curriculum by providing digital learning tools that link in with planned classroom activities.

Wireless access points at schools will foster collaboration and teamwork, allowing students to search for information together and share the learning experience.

What about handwriting?

Students will continue to write with paper and pen and work to improve their handwriting as well as use the keyboard.

What if students play on the devices during the school day instead of going outside for recess?

The devices will provide additional support for student learning, and therefore students will be supervised as they would be for any learning activity. The issues of screen time limits, supervised internet use and best academic uses will be covered by the school's Acceptable Use Agreement.

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

School 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 on the will be held. These forums will provide students with an opportunity to showcase the extent of their development with the devices.

How will teachers be trained and supported?

Teachers can complete the ePotential ICT Capabilities Survey and set ICT professional learning goals as a result.

Peer support is a strong element for success and teachers will be involved in mentoring and coaching each other to complement their growing ICT capabilities.

Regional Ultranet coaches can support schools by conducting workshops.

Student safety and online privacy

What about safe internet use?

Students are offered a device to facilitate anytime, anywhere learning. 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 DEECD 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 school network.

Education and support are important for maintaining acceptable use of devices, particularly in relation to internet access. Newlands Primary School has a code of conduct and internet acceptable use policy to ensure appropriate use of technology and the internet.

Parents and students have already been required to review our CyberSafety material.

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 school. 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 school bags.

Will the student files on the device be private?

Students can expect their device to be periodically inspected and monitored for appropriate usage, whether it is a school owned or privately owned device. School staff may request access to the browser history and/or caches as well as any and all files belonging to the student on the iPads as well as stored on the school servers. Students and parents should be aware that files stored locally or on school servers are not private. Families and students will be required to acknowledge this when they sign the User Agreement.

Evaluation

There will be a number of ways we will gauge the success of the program during 2013. We will be implementing surveys, tracking the skill levels of the students and staff, as well as reviewing classroom curriculum delivery.

Software and hardware

What apps will be on the devices?

The school will have a listed of appropriate educational apps that all iPads will be required to have installed. All iPads will have these apps installed and be synced to the school system.

Can students install their own apps?

If it is a personal device either leased or brought from home, students should feel free to change background images and use pictures to personalise the device. Additional apps may be installed, however it is the family's responsibility to ensure that there is enough hard drive space available to engage in all educational requirements.

Music and movies will be allowed for academic and recreational reasons, provided copyright obligations are met. Downloading music, games and videos from the internet during school hours is prohibited except when directed by a teacher. The national Copyright Advisory Group (CAG) has developed the Smartcopying Website <http://www.smartcopying.edu.au/scw/go> to provide a comprehensive guide to copyright issues affecting Australian schools.

DEECD also has information on copyright and intellectual property on its website:
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/copyright/schools.htm>

Permanent changes such as engraving, marking, painting or drawing will not be permitted as the devices may be used by more than one family during its lifetime at the school. However students will be able to personalise the software interface and background.

Contractual obligations, cost and maintenance

How much is this going to cost?

Families leasing iPads will be required to pay a deposit of \$170 and following will be a payment of \$61 each term for a period of three years. At the end of the leasing period families will have the option to pay out a small fee to own the iPad outright.

Can students bring their own devices from home instead?

Yes, students may bring iPads from home instead. However the school will not be able to provide technical support or be the central point for insurance claims for privately owned devices.

Where do the devices go when not in use?

When not in use, the iPads will be in a locked cabinet at the school. An unattended iPad around buildings or school grounds will be picked up immediately by a staff member and treated as a lost item.

Home use of devices

The school monitors usage at school, but who monitors it at home?

That is the responsibility of the parents. When off school grounds, parents have full authority to monitor device usage.

Examples of this include:

- encourage use in a family room and not in the bedroom
- restrict use at certain times of the evening or weekend
- advise not to take on long trips, and
- examine the documents and other contents of the device.

How can students access the internet from home?

Home internet connection is not supplied by the school or DEECD. If there is an existing internet provision at home, the iPad is able to be configured for access.