St John’s iPad Program – Frequently Asked Questions

What is an iPad and why does my child need one?

An iPad is a small, portable personal computer. It allows students to access applications (apps) and other resources from the internet, which have been used successfully in educational settings. The devices are provided for educational use only. Research demonstrates that the use of digital technologies has a positive impact on student engagement and learning outcomes. In 2014, St John’s will be implementing an iPad program from Years 3 to 6.

How much will it cost and what are the payment options?

Please refer to the information sheet included in your pack.

What if I already own an iPad? Can my child bring this one?

iPads are to be sourced through our Supplier to ensure that each student has fair and equal access to a device with the same configuration, functionality and performance. This will reduce our exposure to technological difficulties and ensure compliance with content filtering objectives and the protection of students from inappropriate content while in school. Our agreement with the Supplier enables us to take advantage of a comprehensive product protection and support package.

What if my child’s iPad is lost or damaged?

The iPads purchased by each student are covered by an extended two-year warranty. Any defects that occur in the normal use of the device will be covered by this warranty. Whilst devices are being repaired, a replacement iPad may be made available to the student at the discretion of the principal. Damage due to negligence or malicious behaviour is not covered by the manufacturer’s warranty. In any instance where a student loses or damages an iPad due to negligent or malicious behaviour, the student’s family will be expected to cover the costs of repair or replacement. In the case of accidental damage the following model applies:

First breakage- The family pays an excess fee of $150
Subsequent breakages: The family pays an excess fee of $300

What if my child’s iPad needs to be repaired?

Students must advise their teacher if a repair is required. The technicians will assess what action must be taken. If an iPad must be repaired, the school may provide a replacement iPad to use whilst repairs are completed.

Are the students able to take their iPad outside at recess or lunch times?

No, for security and safety, the devices will remain inside the building during breaks.

Do the students bring their iPads home?

Students must take their iPad home each night in order to recharge the battery. When travelling to and from school, students should store the iPad in its protective case in their school bag. We ask all parents to ensure iPads are used responsibly at home.

Do students have unrestricted access to the internet?

No. St John’s internet connection is filtered, to limit students’ ability to access inappropriate content. Safe and responsible internet use is explicitly taught at St John’s, and consequences are imposed for those who seek out inappropriate material online.
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Where can I get some advice about safe and responsible use of social media?

St John’s is concerned about the risks associated with social media and other online activity. We want all students to be safe and respectful members of the online community and ask parents to support our efforts in promoting responsible online behaviour. Some tips for parents and links to useful sites are posted on our website and further information can be found in your pack.

Is it necessary for the student to have wireless internet at home?

Students can use iPads without having access to the internet. However, wireless internet would be required at home if you would like the device to be connected to the internet.

What happens if a student does not have an iPad at school?

No replacement device will be made available to the student in these circumstances.

What is the best way to purchase apps, and what apps will be required?

An iTunes card to the value of $30 will be issued by the school when you collect your iPad. A list of prescribed apps will be provided and parents will purchase these using their iTunes card. In addition to the prescribed list, further recommendations will be made to assist you in selecting appropriate apps of educational benefit. Students and parents will sign an agreement that they will not install inappropriate material or apps on their device.

What will happen when my child goes to secondary school?

John Paul College will be implementing their own iPad program in 2014. The iPads we are purchasing meet the requirements of the John Paul College program.

Why has the school chosen iPads?

We believe that iPads will replace or complement existing technology in schools, as:

- The iPad is a versatile device that supports individual student engagement
- Students will be able to communicate and collaborate with each other online
- iPads offer user-friendly technology which is suitable for primary school children
- They provide instant access (students do not wait 3-5 mins at start-up)
- They are light-weight, small and easy to carry
- They have a 10 hour battery life and will last for an entire day of use
- All apps are filtered through the Apple App Store which blocks unsuitable content
- They have built-in cameras and can be used for reflection or movie making activities
- With Pages, Keynote and Numbers, children can access Office-style software to complete a range of activities across the curriculum
- There are many free apps available for education
- iPads have proven to be successful in educational settings

If you have any further questions which are not addressed in this document, please feel free to contact our e-learning team at: elearning@sjfrankstoneast.catholic.edu.au