Edmund Rice College is an innovative school which embraces technology in all learning and teaching areas. One of the main focuses on learning at the College has been to prepare students for their role in the digital world. Edmund Rice College has decided to implement a 1:1 iPad program for all students in Year 10, commencing from the beginning of Term 3, 2013.

In 1:1 learning, each student will need to have access to an iPad to use at school and at home, which will enable communication and collaboration amongst peers and teachers. Students will also have around the clock access to resources and learning support material.

**iPads for Year 10**

Using DER (Digital Education Revolution) funding the College has purchased iPads for all students in Year 10. These learning devices will be the responsibility of students during their study at the College. They will be using the iPads in Year 10 through to Year 12.

**Why an iPad, why not another device?**

**In General**

- Greater scope for student’s self-directed learning and ownership
- Customised device – set up for student strengths and interests
- The device is less intrusive – becomes a part of the learning
- Greater transparency - as the screen is far more visible/harder to conceal inappropriate use
- Easier to maintain eye contact with teacher
- 1000’s educational apps developed for iPad (over 1000 are free)
- Teaches students to effectively access, analyse, synthesize and integrate information on a regular basis
- Doubles as an eReader for textbooks.
- Allows for, promotes and enhances the capacity to cater for individual needs and interests.
Infrastructure/physical benefits/cost

- Long battery life
- No need to transport heavy textbooks
- Ease of portability/lightweight
- Apps are cheaper than those for laptops
- Touch screen far superior interface to keyboard (however keyboard access available)
- Far less management needed for school technical support personnel
- Reduce printing costs
- Possible reduction in cost of textbooks

Additional reasons

- Students are already accustomed to and expect this type of technology (smartphones/ipods etc)
- Majority of primary schools are starting to use iPads in the classroom.
- Students are able to produce extremely high level content (e books, audio/visual production etc)
- The device is suitable for all students irrespective of academic ability.
- Opportunity to develop student personal responsibility with regard to inclusion of student selected apps (in years 11 and 12 ONLY) and also saving and securing created content/documents etc
- Possibility of less Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI) complaints with touch screens (no research at this stage)

What model have students been given?

Students have been issued with an Apple iPad Mini (16Gb, Wifi, Black model). Also included with the iPad is a STM cover and a laptop carry case.

Do we need to purchase the applications?

The school has provided the initial payment of applications (valued at $50). All applications have been installed on the device. Students are not to install other applications onto the device throughout year 10.

What happens if the iPad is damaged or stolen?

- If a device is damaged or lost by neglect, abuse or malicious act, you will be invoiced for its repair or replacement cost.
- All iPads are covered by a manufacturer’s warranty. The warranty covers manufacturer’s defects and normal use of the device. It does not cover negligence, abuse or malicious damage.
- Any problems, vandalism, damage, loss or theft of the iPad must be reported immediately to the school.
- In the case of suspected theft the College must be notified and a police report may be required
What about recharging the iPad during the day?

The iPad will have a battery life of about 10 hours. Students will be expected to charge the device the previous night so that they have a fully charged battery for the following day.

What if my son uses the device in such a way that stops it functioning normally?

Students are to use the device in compliance with the Student Responsibility Agreement which was issued at the beginning of the year in the College Diary. They are not to “jailbreak” the device. Jailbreaking is the process used to modify the operating system running on the iPad to allow a user greater control over their device. This includes the ability to remove Apple-imposed restrictions and install apps obtained through means other than the official App Store. This will be in breach of warranty and against the ethical expectations of the College.

The majority of problems will be software related and can be easily remedied by re-imaging the iPad to bring it back to its original state. The College’s IT Department will help in the event of any software related issues. The College will provide IT Student Support between 8.00am - 2.30pm from Monday to Friday.

Will it be compulsory for my son to bring the iPad to school every day?

Yes it will be compulsory for students to bring the iPad to school every day. The device will become an essential tool for student learning.

Will my son still need to have textbooks and exercise books?

Yes they will. It is important to note that the iPad will become an integral part of your child’s comprehensive education alongside printed and hand written material such as textbooks and exercise books. Students will still need exercise books, as not all work will be completed on the device. We will be providing some of the textbooks in electronic format.

Can my son use the iPad at recess and lunchtime?

Students are not to use their iPad before school, recess and lunch time in the Playground. Students can complete homework, assessment tasks and participate in school activities using their device in the library.

Will there be consequences for incorrect use of the iPad?

Yes. The same consequences will apply if the student had misused a school computer or the Internet. It is important for your son’s development that they learn to use information communication technologies appropriately and understand the consequences of inappropriate use.
**How will my son be able to identify their iPad?**

The iPads are clearly labelled on the inside cover and the device. We recommend that your son's name be clearly labelled on the school issued carry bag.

**What will happen if my son’s iPad crashes and he loses his work?**

Student Data is stored on the iPad itself. Students will also be responsible for backing the data using cloud services i.e. Dropbox and Google Drive. Students will be taught how to backup all their work. It is a student's responsibility to back up their work regularly. The College will not take any responsibility for lost data.

**Will the iPad be protected from viruses?**

The College will provide recommended guidelines in terms of how to browse and download applications in a safe manner. The College will not support a device that has illegal applications or has been “jailbroken”.

**How will Students transport their iPads between home and school?**

The College will supply a carry case with the device that will help protect the iPad. Students will need to manage the textbooks and resources that will be required for each day.

**Will my son be able to access inappropriate materials / facebook / facetime / skype messenger on his device?**

Whilst the students are at school they are protected through the School Filtering System. The College will take every precaution to block inappropriate material at school and at home. However, it is ultimately the student’s responsibility to follow the School Guidelines on “Acceptable use of Technology”.

**If my son accidentally breaks his iPad, how will he do his school work?**

The College will provide the student with an iPad on loan until the repair is completed.

---

*Every precaution is taken to minimise access to inappropriate materials. The transient nature and speed of content creation makes it important as ever for parent supervision of student use of the Internet at home.*

---

Any further concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me personally:  

fsirianni@erc.nsw.edu.au