Edmund Rice College

iPad Program Year 7 2013

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 7, commencing from the beginning of 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.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Students in Year 7 will be expected to bring an iPad to the College on their first day of school. The College Technology Department will configure the device to the school network. The College through a deployment program will provide all necessary applications.

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)
- Less expensive device (affordable over 2 year plan including full warranty)
- 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 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)

Which model are parents required to purchase?

The minimum requirement is the 16Gb iPad 2 with a protective cover. We are strongly recommending Wi-Fi only as this will be easier for us to monitor.

Do we need to purchase the applications?

The school will be providing the initial payment of applications (valued at $50) and a carry case. The deployment procedure will be outlined early next year. The expectation of every student will be that they download applications at home once they are given instructions.

What happens if the iPad is damaged or stolen?

The owner of the device (parent/guardian) is responsible for the costs of any repairs or replacement of the device. The College will not assume any financial responsibility for the repairs or replacement of any device. Any reported loss or damage to a device while at school will be investigated and dealt within the Colleges’ disciplinary procedures.
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 child 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 will be issued at the beginning of next year. 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.

We can assist specifically with software and network configuration issues. You are recommended to utilise service providers, such as Mac1 for specific hardware issues.

Where will my child store his iPad during the school day when it is not in use?

Students are expected to always place the iPad into the carry case supplied by the College. During Recess and Lunch times students are required to leave their iPad in their classroom.

Will it be compulsory for my child 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 child 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, but at this stage all schools in Australia are anticipating changes to the curriculum with the release of the new Australian Curriculum.
Can my child 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 child’s development that they learn to use information communication technologies appropriately and understand the consequences of inappropriate use.

How will my child be able to identify their iPad?

The College advises that all devices are clearly labelled and marked. We recommend that your son’s name be clearly labelled on the device, cover and bag.

What will happen if my child’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 child be able to access inappropriate materials / facebook / facetime / skype messenger on his/her 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 child 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:

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