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## Bring your own device (BYOD) parent information

*This guide provides all the essential information for parents about our school's BYOD program for year 3 to 6 students.*

### What is BYOD?

BYOD refers to our 'bring your own device' program, allowing students in year 3 and above to bring their own device to school to enhance learning. Electronic devices are used to promote genuine learning, research, problem solving and positive communication. We support our students to become digitally responsible cyber citizens.

### How are the devices used to enhance learning?

Students use their iPads to solve problems, design solutions and share their learning with others.

They will be engaged in:

- **creative and critical thinking** through coding, 3D designing, creating presentations and expressing their ideas in a range of formats
- **using tools for learning**: a vast array of apps allow students to record and share their learning, using features such as Airplay to share with the class and facilitate peer feedback
- **using interactive apps** to help students grasp concepts in subjects like math, reading, and science through visual and hands-on activities
- **access information** and resources to solve problems
- to **collaborate**: digital resources allow students to share tasks and ideas
- **personalised learning**: At the core of the curriculum are important life skills that include the ability to locate accurate information through self-directed internet browsing. This is not 'Free-time'. It is, however, learning led by the student with the teacher's scaffolding, supervision and guidance.

### What device can my child bring?

Walkerville Primary School recommends iPads. A security certificate is installed on each device to use the school network. This allows the device to have filtered internet access while at school.

### Why were iPads chosen?

Advantages of using iPads for students at our school are:

- familiarity: 85% of students currently in year 2 and 3 indicated they already have an iPad at home, WPS provides iPads for shared use in R-2 classrooms
- long battery life (all day device)
- lightweight and portable
- connectivity to keyboards and headphones
- low physical footprint on tables and in the classroom.
- reliable hardware (WiFi) and easily repaired
- powerful apps available for education
- familiarity, as iPads are also used by students to complete the NAPLAN assessments in years 3 and 5

## Safe learning environment

Walkerville Primary School has an acceptable use agreement which outlines appropriate use of technologies. Families and students familiarise themselves with and sign the agreement before using devices at school.

- students from year 3 onwards use individual logins to access internet and core learning tools
- all internet traffic through the school environment is filtered to minimise risks – internet use is tracked
- daily reports are generated where activity may be in breach of the agreement
- our technician is able to investigate who is online and what is accessed while at school
- cyber safety lessons are taught as a part of the curriculum
- iPads are locked inside classrooms during breaks during the day by the classroom teacher
- students only use devices in learning time and with the teachers' permission

As per our mobile phone and device policy, messaging must be switched off at school.

### What iPad and accessories should I get for my child? (minimum specifications)

You may wish to purchase a new iPad, however students can use a previously owned iPad as long as it is in good working order, with no cracked screen, and meets the following specifications:

- iPad (8th generation or newer), iPad Air (2020, 2022) or iPad Pro.
- the iPad must be running iPadOS 15 or higher to work on our school network

Students who BYOD also need to bring:

- a wireless keyboard
- headphones
- a protective cover for identification (we recommend labelling this)

*Please keep in mind that an older iPad running the minimum operating system in the first year may become outdated and may not continue to work with the school network before your child finishes primary school.*

*Due to inconsistencies between devices and our limited ability to manage large numbers of them, we discourage the purchase of other brands of tablets.*

*The school has a limited number of additional iPads that we can loan to students if parents find it difficult to purchase their own. Please contact the school to organise this. iPads on loan will remain at school for school use and are not to be taken home.*

## What apps will my child use?

### EdPass

Year 3-6 students receive their own EdPass login from the Department for Education. We will provide login details and help your child set this up on their iPad.

This gives free access to a variety of online apps including:

- Office 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Excel etc)
- Google classrooms
- Canva
- Grok Academy and more



### Office 365

Microsoft Office 365 is available for free for all students and staff to install on all their devices.

Even if you are already using Office 365 with a family account, you will need to switch to using an EdPass account on the iPad to be able to use Office 365 collaboratively at school.

### **Other software and apps**

Teachers will advise if other apps are needed for learning, such as Maker's Empire, a 3D design program created especially for students.

### **Setting up an iPad for student use**

When you set up an iPad you will be asked to enter your Apple ID and password. If you don't have an Apple ID, you can create a new one. You can also set it up later in the App Store. If you own another apple device, you can create an account for your child using Family Sharing.

Decide what restrictions you wish to place on the iPad. Remember students will need to access a variety of websites and apps at school. It is recommended to apply content restrictions on your child's iPad. Enabling the "Limit Adult Websites" option in settings is highly recommended. Additional websites can be blocked if needed. Other things to consider are, game age limits, setting 'Screen Time' limits for games and apps, limit access to chat apps (e.g. Discord). Screen Time can be used to manage how long your child can use certain apps or which hours of the day they can access them. For example, no games available after 8pm on weeknights.

Ensure messaging is switched off during school hours. Unless there is a specific need for messaging at home, you may wish to disable/delete messaging apps completely until your child is older.

### **Charging of devices**

It is the students' responsibility to charge iPads and keyboards at home, to bring to school ready for learning.

### **Managing the Device at Home**

It is important to have a family agreement on when, where and how devices are used by students at home:

**When:** consider when you want your child to be able to access their device. It is a personal decision, some families make a rule that it is for homework only, some allow for a set time when chores are complete or on weekends.

**Where:** research strongly shows that children should be in shared areas when using devices. Many families have an agreement that devices are not taken in to the bedroom or away from shared areas of the home where an adult is present. Be extra careful if you do not have internet filtering on devices at home.

**How:** at school devices are used for learning. There are many apps that use creative and critical thinking skills. Games apps can be fun, but be aware that many are designed to be addictive and without clear guidelines at home with what is okay and for how long there may be issues with overuse, distraction, and even negative impacts on sleep and academic performance. It's important to establish clear boundaries and time limits for recreational use of apps to ensure a healthy balance between screen time and other activities such as physical play, reading, and family interaction.

**Have a conversation:** Talk to your child/ren about what to do if they come across inappropriate material or things that make them feel uncomfortable while using the internet at home. Expert advice is that the child should turn off the screen and give the device to an adult. This helps the adult understand what was seen (violence, swearing, bullying, explicit material) and discuss it with the child and take any actions to prevent repeated exposure. No filter or parental control is 100% effective, developing good online safety habits is important. If your home network is unfiltered the opportunity for children to access inappropriate material is increased.

*Last updated October 2024*

We strongly encourage you to have a home agreement, whether verbal or written to establish positive, safe practices at home.

A sample family device agreement that you may wish to adapt or use is shown on the next page.

## Family Device Use Agreement for primary aged students

We agree to the following rules to make sure we use devices like iPads responsibly at home:

### When We Use the iPad:

- **Homework first:** The iPad can be used for homework and learning activities after school.
- **Playtime rules:** Fun apps or games can be used on school days for up to **20 minutes per day** after homework is finished.
- **Weekend and school holiday use:** On weekends and in school holidays, you can use the iPad for up to **1 hour per day**, as long as chores and responsibilities are completed.

### Where We Use the iPad:

- **Shared spaces:** The iPad must be used in shared family areas (like the living room or kitchen), not in bedrooms.
- **Charging station:** At night, the iPad should be placed in the family charging station, not kept in your room.

### How We Use the iPad:

- **Messaging is off:** Messaging apps must be turned off.
- **Screen time balance:** Make time for outdoor play, reading, and family time. The iPad should not be the only activity.
- **Inappropriate content:** If you see anything online that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset, turn off the screen immediately and come to talk to a parent.

### Additional Rules:

- **Parental check-ins:** Parents may check the iPad to see what apps are being used and how much time is spent on them.
- **App permissions:** New apps must be approved by a parent before they are downloaded.
- **Parents make the final decision:** parents have the right to choose some device free days or nights, and to remove use of the iPad for not following the agreement

Signed by: Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_