



159 Stephen Terrace, Walkerville SA 5081

P: 08 8344 3649 | F: 08 8344 3118

E: dl.0457.info@schools.sa.edu.au

Principal: Chris Edmonds

W: www.walkervilleps.sa.edu.au

Bring your own device (BYOD) parent information

What is Bring your own device (BYOD)?

BYOD refers to our 'bring your own device' program, allowing students in specific year levels bring their own device to school to enhance learning.

- For years 4-6, BYOD is expected for all students.
- For year 3, participation in BYOD in semester 2 each year is entirely voluntary, and the decision to take part rests solely with parents and carers.
- Students in reception to year 2 (and year 3 in semester 1) do not participate in BYOD.

What device can my child bring?

Walkerville Primary School has chosen iPads as BYOD devices for students. Laptops or other tablets may not be used. Once in the school environment a secure certificate is installed for each device to use the school network.

Why were iPads chosen?

Advantages of using iPads for students at our school are:

- 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
- familiarity: iPads are used in years 1-3 classrooms and many families have an iPad at home
- powerful apps available for education
- suitable for completing NAPLAN assessments in years 3 and 5

What iPad and accessories should I get for my child? (minimum specifications, updated May 2026)

We recommend that your child has an iPad that is suitable to last until the end of year 6. This means a learning device that is recent enough to receive operating system (iOS) and security updates and will run the latest versions of apps for learning for that whole period.

If you are buying or repurposing a second-hand iPad:

- it must be in good working condition (no cracked screens, holds battery charge)
- it must be capable of running the latest iOS and security updates

For year 3 students in 2026, an iPad 10th generation or iPad Air 6th generation should continue to receive updates until students complete year 6 and the end of 2029. (Note, while a 9th generation iPad or an iPad Air 5th generation should be suitable for the next year or so it will likely need updating before your child finishes primary school.) Any models older than the ones listed are not recommended due to their age. It is likely that Apple will either stop supporting major iPadOS updates and security, that apps will not run up to date versions or the device will have a decline in performance.

If you choose to purchase a brand new iPad:

- the iPad 11th gen (11-inch A16 128GB Wi-Fi) will be sufficient for school needs. Extra storage capacity or the extra features of iPad Air or iPad Pro are not needed for learning at primary school.

Required accessories:

Students will also need the following for their learning device:

- a wireless keyboard or sturdy keyboard case
- headphones (check these have the right connector for your device)
- a protective cover for identification (we recommend labelling this)

Note: it is often cheaper to buy a separate keyboard and case, and should one break then only that component needs replacing. Keyboards can be left at school if not used at home or not needing to be charged.

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.

Decide what restrictions you wish to place on the iPad. Remember students will need to access a variety of websites and apps at school.

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

The school will run information sessions / workshops about BYOD and managing devices at home.

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

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

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

Last updated May 2026

Family Device Use Agreement for primary aged students

We strongly recommend that parents set up limits using parental controls to support any home agreement, and filter internet access at home.

The examples below are ideas to initiate conversation rather than specific recommendations. You may choose to allow your child to complete homework tasks only and put the iPad on charge once complete.

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 a child's bedroom.

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 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: _____