



Williamstown Primary School *Digital Learning Program - Year 3-6*

Williamstown Primary continues to provide a rich, balanced curriculum, with entrenched values and beliefs. We have many fantastic traditions and enjoy community involvement across the school. In recent years we have also demonstrated our commitment to successful, evidenced-based, 21st century learning strategies enhanced by the successful introduction of our iPad program. This program has been implemented across the whole school, with a 1:3 school based model in Years P-2 and a 1:1 BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) model in Years 3-6. Willy Kids have been building their learning capacity, within a learning environment that enhances the challenging, relevant and high quality learning programs we implement. As with everything we do at Willy, we have ensured we have adopted an approach that is the most successful for our learning community, fits within our *Values, Beliefs and Teaching Practices* and provides the best environment for maximised learning for our kids. We believe iPads are the mobile devices that best support the educational goals we have for your child in all areas of the curriculum while providing a more personalized approach to your child's learning.

We want all Willy Kids to:

- Be successful learners and readily able to purposefully navigate the digital world
- Have greater access to more personalised learning opportunities
- Be confident in their capacity to safely operate within this digital environment

Some background to our model

There are several important aspects to our model, each one catering for the different learning needs of students. For our younger students in Years P-2, we have implemented a strategy that provides students with access to mobile devices through a 1:3 resourcing model. This allows students in Prep – 2 to develop their skills using banks of iPads provided in each year level. We believe this enables the children to develop their foundation learning skills in all areas whilst learning to interact in the digital world, and also guarantees a balance within the learning environment, which is interactive, collaborative and not monopolised by screen time.

In order for this program to be viably resourced across the school, like many schools, we have implemented a Bring Your Own iPad Device (BYOiD) strategy for the students in Years 3 – 6, with years 4-6 a 1-to-1 model.

This program has celebrated huge success since its implementation in 2014.

To maximise iPad output it is important that student iPads are compatible with the most up to date iOS iPad software (refer to device specifications and current iOS information). Students have access to the wireless connection at school only. This is to safeguard the wellbeing of all students as the server is protected by a Department of Education and Training (DET) filter that ensures access to only appropriate and relevant applications, which we can monitor. During the day the iPad will either be on the student's desk whilst at work or locked away in the purpose-built secure storage cabinet in the classroom. Students are to take them home at the end of each day.

For students who do not have their own iPad, the school will be able to provide access to a limited number of school-based iPads. While the capacity to personalise the iPad may not be as extensive and students will not be able to take them home, every student will be able to engage in the planned learning program.

Our successful school wide Digital Learning strategy is enhanced by our extensive work as a school in becoming *eSmart*, ensuring our students have a solid foundation of being great Willy Kids in their interactions online.

Andrea Duxson
Principal

Mathew Montebello
Assistant Principal



What the school will offer

Students will have their iPads connected to the school WiFi network while receiving trouble-shooting support regarding their daily use. Students will also have their iPads enrolled into the schools MDM (Mobile Device Management) system. This will allow school notifications and temporary apps to be dropped onto your child's iPad while connected to the school network.

Students will be assisted in managing their iPads and apps while being encouraged to use the devices in a safe learning environment. Students will be educated and supported regarding eSmart and Cyber safety procedures. This will be incorporated within the student user agreement.

Staff at Williamstown PS undertake ongoing Professional Development in the use of the devices in delivering a relevant and essential curriculum.

Provide an environment where students will be encouraged to think critically, communicate and collaborate with one another through the use of digital technologies eLearning platforms.

Each classroom will have secure facilities for iPads to be stored when not in use. This includes 10 minutes before the commencement of school, during recess and lunch times. Students will not be permitted to take iPads out during these breaks.

Students who do not have a personal iPad will have access to a shared school iPad mini.

FAQ

Why has the school chosen a BYOD program?

Williamstown Primary school has chosen a BYOD program as we feel it is the most effective way to personalise student learning when supported by the use of digital technologies.

What will my child need?

We recommend that each student have access to an iPad. The minimum specification is an iPad that supports the most current iOS iPad operating system. Please refer to the most recent device and iOS information. Families can contact the school for further details.

It is your decision on which model and storage capacity you feel is best suited for your child.

All iPads are required to be labelled and in a suitable protective cover.

(If you require any advice on device selection, please contact Mat Montebello, Assistant Principal)

How often will my child's device need to be upgraded?

The life of a new generation iPad will be more than adequate over the course of the 4 year program, Therefore we do not see any need to upgrade during this time.

Are students able to have an iPad with a SIM card and have 3G/4G/5G access at school?

No, the SIM cards will have to be removed when they are at school. A 3G/4G/5G iPad is not the recommended version as it does not conform to our eSmart policy.

Do I have to buy a new iPad if we already own one?

No, students can bring family iPads to school. You are reminded that if your child is bringing a family iPad



that there is no private information on the device and it is not synced to other family devices in which notifications and other communications will interrupt usage at school.

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

No, for security and safety of devices and other students, the iPads will remain locked in a class cabinet inside the building during breaks.

What about after school?

Students must take their iPad home each night to recharge the battery. When travelling to and from school, students should store the iPad in its protective case in their school bag. If your child attends OSH club, we have ensured that processes for the safekeeping of devices are in place.

Will my child be able to access the Internet at school, and is it safe?

Yes, it takes about 30 seconds to connect an Apple device to the school's wireless network for the first time, and they connect automatically after the initial configuration. They will automatically reconnect to your home Wi-Fi as soon as they are in range. Like all schools, Williamstown Primary School's Internet connection is filtered through the DET server for safety. Students will not use 3G or 4G sim cards on the iPads. They will have access to Wi-Fi only while at school so that the school can monitor and control applications used at school.

What happens if my child does not have an iPad at school?

Students will still be able to perform many tasks on one of the school iPads. This will reduce their ability to personalise their learning if they do not have their own device. Due to resourcing they may not have access to a device during all lessons, which is why our preference is for each student to bring their own device.

Why has the school chosen iPads?

Touch devices such as the iPad are the new paradigm and digital learning platform in schools. They have replaced or complemented notebooks/laptops/desktops in schools for a number of reasons:

- 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
- They are affordable and have an instant access (students do not wait 3-5 mins at startup)
- 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
- We are able to carefully choose appropriate apps which will enhance learning
- Students will be able to communicate and collaborate with each other online
- The iPad is an open ended creative device that will support student engagement

Apple vs Android

The school has chosen Apple iPads over Android tablets due to the depth of education support for both teachers and students. The Apple platform delivers the most consistent and effective platform for education and gives the school the best opportunity to stay in sync across all year levels as technology continues to evolve.

Will restrictions I have placed on my child's iPad affect their usage at school?

Yes it will. This is something you will need to manage at home. Our school network has a department filter on it and does a good job of blocking inappropriate sites. Occasionally when iPad restrictions are turned on, websites approved by teachers may be blocked.

What happens if my child leaves their iPad at home?

If your child leaves their iPad at home they will not be able to share another student's iPad and the school



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may not have an iPad for them to use. Therefore this may restrict your child's ICT usage for the day, but your child's teacher will modify work to allow for this.

Who is responsible for my child's iPad?

At all times your child is responsible for their iPad. The school has installed secure cabinets for when the devices are not being used. Students are not permitted to lend their iPad to another student. Students are advised to treat their iPads with respect and to be mindful of where they place the device. This item is covered in the student/parent/teacher usage agreement.