

# iPads for teaching and learning – parent FAQs

The questions below were raised principally by Year 9 parents during the academic year 2013-14. We are always happy to receive new questions and will regularly update this document. Please email these to Mr Mace via the school office (school@lgs.slough.sch.uk)

Question	Response
Will students be allowed to take the iPads home?	Yes, we want them to continue working on them at home. It extends the opportunities for them to use this tool for learning beyond school hours and equalises what they all have access to. For example, we can set extended media projects that previously had to be completed in school or lesson time. Now we can be more creative, flexible and ambitious with the tasks we set students.
Who is responsible for the iPad at home if it was damaged or lost?	With a leasing scheme this responsibility is borne by the student, however, devices would have an insurance cover in place via WestWon (the leasing company) that would cover any necessary repair and replacement. If families provide their own iPads it is possible to purchase separate insurance via WestWon. Should breakages occur, parents can log these and arrange for them to be fixed directly with WestWon.
What happens if an iPad is damaged or stolen?	The student would obviously lose use of the iPad in the immediate term although in most instances a temporary 'pool' iPad can be supplied by the School ICT team. Purchases made via WestWon can normally be replaced from 24 hours after logging the problem at the WestWon website and also through our website. Stolen iPads are covered provided a police report is provided. This also underlines the need for work to be continually backed up by students to OneDrive for Business.
What's to stop you downloading 'apps'?	Nothing!

	<p>Downloading apps can be good and bad. We want our students to feel they can download apps that will help their learning. They need to be able to explore, find new ways to learn for themselves and share those with others.</p> <p>The School purchases 'core-skill' apps, both free and paid-for. They are distributed via a mobile-device management system called Casper. Individual iTunes accounts are created for students. We have an expectation that students bring the iPad to school with sufficient memory and battery power to be useful for the whole day.</p>
How will we stop students downloading unnecessary apps that distract them and waste time?	<p>Either one of two extremes and anything in between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make learning so interesting so they are absorbed by it</li> <li>• Discipline them if they waste time and don't get the work done</li> </ul> <p>Ultimately, they need to be prepared for university, where no-one will dictate how they use their time. If they can learn to handle distraction now with our support, they will be better life-long disciplined learners.</p>
Are iPads safe in school?	<p>Yes, provided students stop and think!</p> <p>They are expected to carry devices around with them, but certainly at break times, they should be put away in their lockers which are padlocked.</p> <p>In PE, lockers are set-aside for students to deposit and collect iPads, supervised by PE staff – however the iPads are the student's responsibility, not staff. Similarly for PE clubs and sports fixtures, these lockers are available.</p>
Are iPads safe out of school?	<p>We can never be 100% safe, but there have been no iPad related incidents involving our students outside of school.</p> <p>There have been occasional incidents in Kedermister Park where students in any year group have been approached, and we would continue to remind students not to advertise their personal belongings and to walk in groups.</p>
Using Social media appropriately	<p>Work is done in Year 7 to create a social media contract. Tutor groups negotiate this and this can be reinforced and recreated by tutors in Year 9.</p> <p>Ultimately, children learn from their mistakes. As parents and teachers we can guide and help. But as teachers we cannot control what they do and say, but we can have expectations about what</p>

	happens within school time. The same is true at home.
Most parents use a Windows PC at home - Are there compatibility issues?	<p>Not very much. Apple and Microsoft seemed content to benefit each other from compatibility. We have subscribed to Office365 for Education to facilitate this. Work done on the iPad can be saved as a PDF and uploaded to a Windows PC. There are iPad apps for Word, PowerPoint and Excel. PDFs can be stored on OneDrive for Business.</p> <p>Videos and photos can be saved in MP4/jpeg so are compatible with Windows PCs.</p>
Apps on Android are catching up and are better value for money. Was any comparison done with tablets like Nexus 10?	<p>Yes. A lot of time was spent comparing Android, Windows 8 and Apple Devices. There are a large number of benefits to choosing Apple. The key ones are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virus protection</li> <li>• Power of the operating system and compatibility</li> <li>• Common interface across iPad devices – we now have iPad 2, 3, 4 and 5 in school with no distinct differences in experience</li> <li>• Education market and its direction, as well as security of the Apple AppStore</li> <li>• The ability to sync and configure iPads as a group.</li> </ul>
Will this pilot distract / detract from 'real' learning?	<p>It depends on your definition of real learning!</p> <p>The iPads need to facilitate the natural process of learning. This is in the hands of the teachers and students. They are a tool to enhance, not a replacement for, what would otherwise go on in the classroom.</p>
Is this an experiment without 'proven' benefit?	<p>No, we are following the direction of a number of other schools locally, and around the world. Research projects point out the following benefits of putting iPads in the hands of students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control / access to ICT is the hands of the students, not limited to the teacher</li> <li>• They instantaneously brings a whole world of information to their fingertips, moving control of knowledge to the student, allowing teachers to focus on how to handle that information</li> <li>• They motivate students, particularly boys, to read. But teenagers can be hard to motivate in relation to school work. Our students are motivated.</li> <li>• Many students already use digital devices to learn so know what to do to enhance their learning. iPads for each student creates parity, and allows students to delve deeper into subjects.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is easier to allow students to get on with tasks - the resources are in front of them. Focus is better on helping resolve issues.</li> <li>• It is easier to develop collaborative learning, vital for the workplace</li> <li>• Creativity and evaluation skills are developed.</li> </ul> <p>However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The learning environment and focus chosen by the teacher is more important and valuable than the technology</li> <li>• There is a concern about potential deterioration in handwriting - and preparation for exams</li> <li>• The focus needs to be on 'creativity' and thinking, rather than knowledge accumulation. iPads enable overwhelming help to advance both of these.</li> </ul>
Will all students be expected to buy iPads?	<p>We are not able to provide iPads from the school budget - we simply do not have enough money to do this. We want to provide three options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leasing arrangements</li> <li>• Students might have their own iPad and choose to use this. Equally cheaper iPads might be available on the open market to purchase. For compatibility we would insist iPads are the only devices used in School.</li> <li>• Students on Free School Meals receive funding from the government in the form of Pupil Premium and this can be used to support the cost of a device.</li> </ul>
What can / cannot be accessed? Can apps be locked down to education?	<p>iPads are linked to a Mobile Device Management system called Casper. Through the Cloud we can apply settings to the iPads that, for example enable restrictions on them to be applied so access to some apps can be restricted.</p> <p>In the first instance though, we will not place any restrictions. We want to encourage students to use the devices to their potential, but will not tolerate their misuse. The School will highlight what is legal and illegal in regards to use of the internet.</p> <p>However access to the internet will remain filtered as it is currently.</p>
Could the iPads be shared?	<p>Yes, if a student gives their iPad to someone else.</p> <p>No, if they don't tell them their passcode.</p>
Will students be allowed to store their	<p>Yes. We have supplied access to OneDrive for Business for all students.</p>

personal files / applications?	Students are still able to use the iPad for their personal use.
How will the iPads be used for the curriculum and in what subjects?	<p>Different subjects are using iPads to a greater or lesser extent, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geography are creating iBooks and using interactive quiz software</li> <li>• PCS recently created collaborative media projects on racism</li> <li>• English are sharing work and providing electronic copies of core texts for students to annotate</li> <li>• PE are using them to watch performance</li> <li>• Philosophy and Ethics are experimenting with digital exercise books</li> <li>• Science are using them for internet research</li> </ul>
Internet safety	Our curriculum currently highlights the dangers created by internet and social media in particular. The Year 7 ICT curriculum focuses on the technical aspects, whilst the Year 8 Geography curriculum has recently raised the profile of the social dangers created by exposing students to a global world.
Will there be password protection?	Yes, students will create a personal password.
How can parental access be allowed?	We encourage you to ensure your son or daughter allows you complete access to their iPad, according to how you as a family would normally operate. We discourage the idea that the iPad should contain secrets and information that is not for you. Just like any teenage bedroom!
Should we be worried about too much 'screen time' and its detrimental effect - what is being lost by living more and more of our lives online?	<p>We should be worried. The iPads are not a replacement for the real world. They will not be used all the time, and likewise at home. Time restrictions can be helpful, but equally they are a significant source of creativity.</p> <p>The Year 8 curriculum looked at this in detail and concluded there are many ways to manage this situation, and that it depends on the ethos and culture of your family.</p>
How often would be iPads be used in school?	As often as teachers find ways to use them!
If the iPads come home, can they view any sites at home?	Yes, according to the restrictions on your home networks. Again, this reflects your parenting style.

