

# Optional Bring Your Own iPad Program - 2019

Prepared by Liss Lothian – 2019 5/6 Teacher

We are currently seeking feedback from all families in regards to the possibility of commencing an optional Bring Your Own iPad program in the 5/6 classroom next year.

This would allow the senior students to bring their own devices to school, making the use of these devices more accessible. Students would be required to have a selection of apps on their iPads to ensure they could be used purposefully in the classroom for learning tasks. The iPads would only ever be used for learning activities under direct teacher supervision.

In line with many schools who offer this program, we would limit this to the senior class (5/6 in 2019), although this could look different if we were to have a 4/5/6 class in the future.

As with any change, there would be a number of policies that would need to be produced and agreed upon for this to be a success.

We fully understand that we are a small school with lots of siblings in the same classes and that this

may not be financially viable for some families. We would ensure that those without their own iPad always had access to a netbook. We are in the process of purchasing a small number of iPads as part of our Inclusion Boost funding, however these will be for all students to utilise, not just the 5/6 students.

**Please take the time to read the following information and FAQs** before submitting your survey. The FAQs have been established through discussion with school council and staff.

*Liss Lothian is more than happy to answer any questions or concerns in person or through Class Dojo.*

## Why?

- To make the use of iPads more accessible to students; we only have limited devices across the school
- **To minimise the need of handouts and worksheets by making these accessible on the DropBox platform** (*supporting our school wide ResourceSmart philosophy*)
- To prepare our senior students for use of these devices at high school and in the future
- To offer what a number of schools in our area already do (Katandra West, Dookie, Shepparton East, Guthrie St)
- To compliment teaching programs
- To engage students in a hands-on manner
- To expose students to up-to-date digital technologies
- To improve students' 21<sup>st</sup> century skills
- To offer something *special* for the senior students
- To support those with additional learning needs through the use of supportive applications



# FAQs

**It is not feasible for my child to have their own device. Will that disadvantage them?**

No. Those without their own devices will have access to school netbooks. As we have a limited number of school iPads, Miss Lothian would timetable the use of these with other staff if tasks could not be adjusted for netbooks.

**Will my child still use pen and paper?**

Yes. When Miss Lothian taught 5/6 in 2016, every student had a Maths, Reading and Writing book that was used every day. Student iPads would predominately be used as tools to access information rather than to record it.

**How will they be stored in the classroom?**

iPads would be stored at the front of the classroom in an appropriate storage station. Students would not have their iPads in their lockers or book boxes and they would only have them at their desks when they had been directed to use them. Classrooms will be locked at lunch and recess.

**Will my child be allowed to use their iPad outside of the classroom?**

No – unless they were undertaking a task during class time under the supervision of their teacher. Students would be required to sign a 'Responsible Use' contract before their iPad came to school, and consequences would be in place if they chose not to follow the rules outlined in this contract.

**Why is this only being offered to the 5/6 cohort?**

The level of maturity and responsibility between the senior and junior students varies considerably. If this program went ahead, all students would have the opportunity to bring their own devices when they reach the senior class.

**What do other schools offer?**

Two other small schools in our cluster offer this program – Katandra West and Dookie. Some larger schools, including Shepparton East and Guthrie Street also allow their students to bring their own devices. Wanganui requires its Year 7 students to have iPads and Shepparton High allows students to bring their own devices too.

**Can you teach me more about iPads and appropriate applications?**

Yes! If this program were to commence, we would ensure that we held regular information sessions to upskill the school community. We would also run an information night before 2019.

**Would iPads stay at school?**

No. The expectation would be that devices come to school each morning and return each night – as is the expectation with students' green reader bags.

**Does the device need to be an iPad?**

Yes. This will keep devices consistent across the school.

**How much does an iPad cost?**

You can purchase a 6<sup>th</sup> Gen. 32GB iPad for around \$450 (Miss Lothian currently uses this model in her classroom). As your child's iPad would be connected to the school's internet server, it would only need to be Wifi compatible (not 3G). Prices vary depending on the specifications of the device. You do not need to go out and purchase one unless you would like to.

**How will technical issues be addressed?**

With the support of our IT technician, Shaun Buckland. Miss Lothian is quite tech savvy and would be able to solve some problems if Shaun was not available.

**What if my child's iPad was damaged at school?**

The school would not be liable for any damages. We would state in our policy that all devices came to school in heavy duty cases (brands may be specified) and we would encourage families to seek information about appropriate insurance.

**What if I took my child's iPad away as a consequence for behaviour at home?**

We would understand that choice although it would be beneficial if they could still bring their device to school for learning purposes.

**Would we have to pay for applications?**

We would predominately use free ones. There may be some optional applications that cost.

**How will teachers know what students are doing?**

iPads will only be used under teacher supervision. We would likely use an application such as *Google Classroom* or *AirPlay* which allows teachers to monitor students' iPads and see the content they are accessing.

***If you have any other questions, please see Miss Lothian for further information 😊***

