Learning in the 21st Century – iPad Guidelines

St Pauls Catholic College, Greystanes
Rationale

A wealth of studies identify the positive benefits of infusing technology into the classroom, coupled with the successful practice witnessed in many other schools, the introduction of a iPad program at the College is a positive step forward for education. The key reasons that best describe why St Pauls Catholic College is pursuing a 1:1 tablet technology program are as follows.

- **21st Century Skills**
- *To equip our students with 21st century skills, specifically:*
  - critical thinking
  - student-centred learning practice
  - working collaboratively
  - learning to share in ethical ways
  - shared knowledge construction
  - problem solving
Why use iPads for Learning?

• The iPad is a unique device. It occupies a new space between the mobility of Smart phones and iPods, and the portability of laptops and netbooks. This is referred to as the ‘agile’ space because the iPad offers mobility, as well as portability, yet fulfills most of the functions of all these devices.

• The iPad will help to personalise learning and transform teaching practice. The iPad will, over time, become the catalyst that changes relational learning from the traditional ratio of one teacher to thirty students to teacher-guided individual learning experiences for students. The iPad also allows for, promotes, and enhances the capacity to cater for individual student needs and interests.

• The iPad provides a blank learning canvas. There are literally thousands of general and subject-specific educational applications available at this point in time. The number of applications (apps), written specifically for teaching and learning, is huge and increasing exponentially each day. Educationalists are working with developers to create new and innovative software which reflect the learner’s needs and expectations in technology.

• Contextual Learning, the form factor, battery life and installation of applications (apps), means that the iPad can be an ‘anywhere, anytime’ learning device. This makes it ideal for projects and learning which take place out of the traditional classroom setting, in the schools grounds, at home, on holidays etc. Couple the iPad with a WiFi connection and learners can be online at all times at every location.
Students Resources (Years 7-10)

The following will be distributed to students through the College network as PDF texts or by using the online apps:

- Maths Quest NSW Australian curriculum
- Cambridgemaths NSW
- Core Science NSW Australian curriculum
- Retroactive NSW Australian curriculum
- English is ... Australian Curriculum
- Geoactive (Current Edition)
- New Concepts in Commerce 9 &10 (Current Edition)
- Active Outcomes (Current Edition) PDHPE
- Artwise 1 Visual Arts 7-10 or Artwise 2 Visual Arts 9 &10 (Current Editions)
- Italian Yr 7

Online assessment programs or online skillbuilder games
- assessON Maths Quest NSW Australian curriculum
- Hotmaths
- assessON Core Science NSW Australian curriculum
- Knowledge Quest English
- myWorld History Atlas
- myWorld Atlas

Online apps
- Good News bible
- Dictionary/thesaurus
FAQs...

**Why should I get an iPad and not a laptop?**

- St Pauls Catholic College and the Catholic Education Office have spent considerable time testing the iPad in school situations. The iPad allows students to access the Internet and Email, create content (word processing, spreadsheets, presentations), access our Learning Management System (Edmodo), create movies, manipulate photos and much, much more.
- The iPad has a greater battery life (around 10 hours), than a Laptop therefore the battery will last the entire school day without the need for charging and weighs a lot less (around 700g compared to a laptop which weighs at least 2kg), reducing the weight of school bags.
- The iBook application allows you to keep books and resources at your fingertips. We also use Jacaranda e-Textbooks with a special e-textbook app.

**Do I need a case?**

- St Pauls Catholic College has stipulated All iPads MUST be encased. These need to be tough, thick and sturdy so it an stand the pressures of day to day use within the college and protect the iPad from drops. Our recommended case is known as a survivor case.

**Can I charge my device at the College?**

- No, all students are expected to have their device charged at home.

**Why would I need to use eBooks?**

- There are advantages in having books, including text books, loaded to your iPad. By putting books onto the iPad you dramatically reduce the weight in your son/daughters schoolbag.
- Students will always have access to textbooks and resources in their classes with the inclusion of e-Textbooks. Students will also be able to annotate the e-Textbooks for study etc.
- Most importantly, the cost of e-Textbooks will be less than the cost of current hard copy books.
- Some traditional books will still play a big part of your child’s learning.