



*Innovative*

*creativity and endeavour*

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# **1:1 iPad Program FAQ Booklet**

## **OUR GOAL**

Our goal is to provide our children with the best possible primary school education. The RMPS 1:1 iPad program will assist us to achieve this goal by using contemporary 21st century technology to develop in all our children the learning skills necessary to allow them to maximise their learning potential in primary school, secondary school and beyond the classroom.

## **WHAT IS A 1:1 PROGRAM?**

A 1:1 program provides students with personal, portable devices to enhance their opportunities for learning. 1:1 programs are also known as ‘anywhere, anytime’ for students’ programs. 1:1 programs support the individualising of learning, can increase independence and extend learning beyond the classroom.

A 1:1 program enables each student’s learning tools to be always available to that student, and this is not possible with shared technology. 1:1 gives the students ownership of their work and allows student reflection and sharing of their work. It becomes a valuable tool for assessment, providing feedback and enabling students to continue their learning at home.

One of the key benefits will be that students and parents will be able to share what their child has been working on during the day. Children will be able to take their parents through the steps of their learning which will reinforce and support what has been learnt. This allows parent to be more engaged and involved in their child’s learning.

**Q:** *What are the benefits of the 1:1 iPad program? What do we expect to achieve?*

**A:** iPad technology when used in education has been shown to offer significant learning benefits to primary school children of all ages. These benefits include:

- increasing the levels of student engagement in their learning leading to improved learning outcomes
- providing students with the necessary tools and an awareness to learn in a society that is becoming more technology rich
- giving students more and new avenues to present their work and learn
- providing students with a learning tool that supports their different learning style
- allowing personalised learning to happen within the classroom so that each child can work at their individual rate and level of learning
- the ability to access homework and school information
- greater access to real time information, digital learning resources and apps
- ability to teach students how to communicate appropriately and safely online
- the ability to capture any learning in the form of videos or photographs to create authentic learning resources such as digital portfolios

**Q:** *What is the school's vision? What do we expect to achieve?*

**A:** Roberts McCubbin Primary School's Mission and Vision for a 1:1 Program.

Our 1:1 program aims to prepare our students to excel technologically and to:

- **Be engaged learners** (an iPad 1:1 program supports innovative curriculum planning and implementation. The interactivity of iPad technology provides students with a highly engaging learning experience)
- **Be creative thinkers** (there is an excellent range of apps designed to stimulate the student's creative instincts where virtual and real world creativity can be managed)
- **Be problem solvers** (powerful apps mean students just don't consume content, they create it and are able to find their own way to problem solve and engage with it)
- **Be connected global citizens** (an iPad 1:1 program will support the initiating of global communication and collaboration)
- **Be independent and self directed learners** (an iPad 1:1 program provides students with personal, portable devices to access learning at a time, in a place and at a pace, which supports their learning needs)
- **Be social collaborators** (the iPad program will enable students to research, to access information and to connect with others for communication and collaboration)

## **BENEFITS / LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Q:** *How will the 1:1 iPad program improve learning outcomes for our children?*

**A:** The 1:1 iPad program will improve learning outcomes by enhancing communication and engagement among students and their teachers. There is strong evidence to show that children today engage and communicate more effectively in contemporary information technology-based learning programs. These benefits have been demonstrated in children as young as preschool.

**Q:** *Will introducing iPads mean there's less time spent learning to write with pens and pencils?*

**A:** No, technology will never replace traditional teaching. Traditional pen and paper writing is as important as it ever was. There are some iPad applications that actually enhance traditional pen and paper writing, which would be used to complement more traditional approaches to learning.

**Q:** *Why iPads?*

**A:** The introduction of a 1:1 program supports the school's vision. Today iPads are widely used and are the preferred tablet device in education. Four million iPads were sold in the June quarter of 2011. By the same quarter in 2012 that number had exploded to 29.5 million. Technology used in the classroom should be consistent with what is used outside of the classroom in order to maintain relevance and maximise effectiveness of the education program.

- The iPad is a reasonably priced personal device which can be used as a 1:1, anywhere, anytime learning device
- The touch interface supports the technology that students use in their everyday life and allows a high level of interactivity
- The 10 hour battery life means that the iPad can be used throughout the entire school day
- Through the use of different apps, students are able to choose the method that best supports them to demonstrate their learning
- The instant start-up of the iPad means greater use of class time for learning
- The iPad is light and portable and easily carried in school bags or between classes
- The iPad allows for anywhere, anytime access to current information that contains text, sound, images and interactivity
- Documents and tasks can be uploaded to iBooks by the teacher and downloaded onto the iPad by the students

**Q:** *How has the school community been consulted on this decision and why was the decision to introduce a 1:1 iPad program made?*

**A:** A wide-ranging consultation process has consisted of two parts:

1. Teaching professional consultation

Since the first introduction of iPads in classrooms in our school in 2011, our school has undertaken an extensive process of visiting and seeking advice from schools who have implemented highly successful 1:1 programs. This consultation process has been supported by an on-going professional learning program for all staff including workshops, conferences, sessions at school with consultants and within school staff coaching and mentoring.

2. School community consultation

The consultation process with the school community has included parent information evenings, Education Committee meetings and School Council discussions. Meetings with a focus on the use of iPads throughout the school, were held in 2012 and again this year. At the parent information night run in July, a number of areas were covered, including the use and the place of iPads within a primary classroom with the introduction

of a 1:1 program being raised. Support from School Council to proceed with the implementation of a 1:1 program was sought at the October meeting of Council and approval was given.

Our information night to be held on October 23rd will include guest speakers in the education field and from another school who has had a 1:1 program running for the past two years.

Another information night will be held in a few weeks time to explain parent options and costings. We are seeking a variety of quotes from several sources in line with DEECD requirements.

**Q:** *Why do we need iPads for the junior school?*

*Why a full roll out and not a smaller trial of the iPad program?*

**A:** iPad technology when used in education has been shown to increase student engagement offer significant learning benefits to primary school children of all ages. Our school's approach to primary education is built on a strong inclusive approach to learning across all age-groups. Our philosophy of developmental learning and multi-age structure acknowledges that children are at varying levels of development that is not determined by their age. Children in all years should be provided with the opportunity to benefit from the 1:1 iPad program.

**Q:** *Can a child as young as prep age really benefit from the 1:1 iPad program?*

**A:** Yes, children as young as prep can derive significantly enhanced learning and development outcomes from iPad or tablet technology.

**Q:** *When will the iPads be introduced to RMPS?*

**A:** iPads will be phased into RMPS commencing in Term 1, 2014.

**Q:** *Won't iPads make bullying easier?*

**A:** The school is working towards becoming an eSmart school which has a strong emphasis on the importance of cyber safety. This is a whole school program designed in conjunction with the DEECD and the Alannah and Madeline foundation. As part of this we have to ensure appropriate processes and procedures are in place within classrooms while the children are accessing technology.

## **CURRENT RESEARCH**

**Q:** *Why a full roll out and not a smaller trial of the iPad program?*

**A:** iPad technology when used in education has been shown to offer significant learning benefits to primary school children of all ages. Our school's approach to primary education is built on a strong inclusive approach to learning across all age-groups. Children in all years should be provided with the opportunity to benefit from the 1:1 iPad program.

**Q:** What does the current research suggest about iPads in primary schools?

**A:** Research shows that integrating digital technologies into the learning environment can:

- positively impact on student engagement and motivation
- improve their confidence levels, attitudes towards the learning
- allows children to be better organised which improves literacy and numeracy outcomes
- allows students to be more control over their learning
- learn through collaboration and conversation

## **OWNERSHIP / COST**

**Q:** *I am concerned about the expense to families of the 1:1 iPad program. Are families required to purchase an iPad?*

**A:** No. Purchase or lease of an iPad is not compulsory.

**Q:** *Will families be required to purchase an iPad for each child attending RMPS?*

**A:** No. Families can choose to purchase or lease any number or no iPads.

**Q:** *Will this double the cost of our yearly school fees?*

**A:** No. The purchase or lease of an iPad is optional. The iPad program will have no effect on school fees.

**Q:** *What will the iPads cost to purchase or lease?*

**A:** While we have not received all quotes as yet the quarterly payment with a lease for an iPad 2 will be around \$65 per quarter. The cost to purchase an iPad 2 is expected to be around \$360 - \$400.

**Q:** *I am concerned that a lack of affordability of an iPad may disadvantage some students.*

**A:** Using the school's bank of iPads, students who do not have their own will be provided with the opportunity to benefit from iPad technology during class-time.

**Q:** *I am concerned that my child may be too young to take responsibility for taking an iPad to and from school. Are our children, particularly junior school children ready for this responsibility?*

**A:** This is ultimately an individual family decision. However, experience from other primary schools has shown that with processes and procedures in place iPads travel to and from school without damage or loss. These schools also report that junior school students are no more likely to lose or damage iPads whether at home or school than older children and that such incidents are minimal.

**Q:** *Who will be responsible for iPad insurance? What happens if they are damaged, stolen or lost either at school or outside of school?*

**A:** Because the iPad will belong to the family it will be the family's responsibility to insure the iPad if it is lost. Leased iPads will have Apple Care cover for damage. It is recommended that families consider including the iPad in their home contents insurance.

## LOGISTICS

**Q:** *How often will the children use their iPads, particularly in junior school?*

**A:** iPads will be used in many classroom activities whenever they may offer additional learning opportunities for the children. The 1:1 iPad program will not replace our traditional curriculum. But rather, the technology will be used to enhance and improve student learning and development.

**Q:** *Why not assign the current bank of iPads just for junior school use?*

**A:** As all children will benefit from the 1:1 iPad program, and children from any age group may like to access school iPads, the current bank of iPads will be available to all classes regardless of age group.

**Q:** *Why does the iPad have to go home each day?*

**A:** The iPad will be required to go home every night to make sure it is charged and ready for the following day. It also allows for anywhere and anytime access to learning in and out of school. Taking the iPad home also allows for more family involvement on the student's education which strengthens the partnership between home and school.

**Q:** *My child is clumsy/forgetful, it is likely they will break/lose the iPad and what happens then?*

**A:** Protective cases and classroom procedures are being investigated and developed to minimise any risks associated with loss or damage.