

One-to-One Device Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions

Year 7 2025-2026



This document contains answers to a range of Frequently Asked Questions about the one-to-one scheme.

- **What are the benefits of my child having a personal device for school?**

We believe that new technologies can be used as one of a range of tools to improve the quality of Teaching & Learning. The most effective lessons are those where students receive highly personalised feedback and where the level of challenge is high for all students, so that they are self-motivated and develop as independent learners. The content must be engaging, and any processing of information must be at a deep level.

A personal device such as the iPad offers new opportunities to motivate and engage students of all abilities. It empowers the student to take control of their learning and to work in a more individualised way. Additionally, the opportunity to work collaboratively with other students both within school and beyond has the potential to greatly enhance a child's understanding and educational progress.

The iPad means that new technologies can be readily and spontaneously accessed for short amounts of time during a lesson, wherever appropriate, rather than made the focal point of a whole lesson or sequence of lessons where groups are taken to a separate computer suite and work for an hour at a time on computers.

- **What is the equipment that my child will have?**

- iPad Wi-Fi 128GB - Space Grey 11 Inch (brand new, latest model)
- Tek Era Mains Charger
- Deqster Smart Connector Rugged Touch Case with Keyboard and trackpad
- JAMF mobile device management software with home/school settings
- Educational applications
- Microsoft office 365 suite of applications

- **How is this One-to-One device scheme being funded?**

For the academic year 2025-2026, we are delighted to announce our partnership with MCC digital to bring technology into every classroom. MCC are one of the UK's most experience Apple Authorised Education Specialists, serving education across the UK. MCC offer a suite of services as part of their Monthly Parental Scheme. Whilst we would encourage all families to take part, it is your right to choose not to do so.

Please be fully aware, however, that by opting out your child will not be provided with their own device to use in school and to take home. We will try to ensure that your child has access to a device in the classroom to support their learning, but this may involve them sharing school owned devices with other pupils who are not part of the scheme. We appreciate the commitment for you as parents but hope you can see the long-term benefit that this scheme will have on your child.

- **How much do I need to pay?**

For the academic year 2025-2026, there are the following finance options that are paid through EDDE (Education Donation Engine) as part of our partner provider MCC (Micro Computer Consultants Ltd). Parents can manage their accounts through a parent portal. Finance options are as follows: -

- One-off payment of approximately £506.00 paid at the start of the contract
- 36 monthly payments of approximately £16.00.
- Pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium will receive a subsidised device, with a monthly cost of approximately £9.00.
- Pupils who have a sibling also signed up to the scheme will receive a discount.

It is important to note that where there is eligibility for two discounts, only the greater discount will be applied.

- **Why have you chosen iPads over other devices available on the market?**

An extensive comparison of various devices was undertaken, and the iPad proved to be the most competitive in a number of key areas:

- 10-hour battery life
- Lightweight and portable
- Extensive range of cheap/free Apps, developed specifically for educational use on the iPad.
- Familiar and desirable
- Intuitive to use.
- Range of inbuilt sensors and two cameras
- Competitively priced
- Apple classroom provides leading edge classroom management tools to maintain systems and uphold excellent behaviour for learning.
- Apple's closed ecosystem means that only certified Apps can be installed, giving some degree of confidence in the Apps to which students have access. The Apps will not contain viruses and can be restricted by age group.
- Ability for pupils to install their own apps for use outside of school hours, that cannot be accessed during the school day.



- **Can my child still write essays on their iPad like they can on a laptop?**

Yes, however, there will not be an expectation that students will type work anymore than they currently do. All iPads will have Microsoft Office 365 so that students can move work between PCs and the iPad easily. All iPads are supplied with a keypad to improve the functionality of the iPad even further.

- **Can we buy our own device instead of having to join the scheme next year?**

Whilst we appreciate the diverse range of devices that are available on the market, the differing specification and capabilities makes it very difficult for us as a school to manage the systems and security to the high levels that we would expect. Therefore, by having one consistent device we can offer a better service as well as ensure there is equality across our school community with every pupil accessing an equitable standard of device.

- **What happens if the device is lost or stolen or damaged?**

As per our Home/School agreement there are clear guidelines on the appropriate use and care for an iPad. However, we understand that in rare cases accidents can happen. As part of the agreement with MCC, the monthly payment includes insurance for accidental damage and theft. This is administered through MCC and is not an agreement with school.

- **What happens if I can't make one of the instalments?**

As always, we would encourage you to contact school at the earliest convenience so we can find a solution. Should payment not be paid then your child will no longer be able to take their iPad home and will remain in school.

- **Do we need to join the scheme next year?**

We can only run this programme if parents want it and are prepared to contribute. While a small number of families in difficult circumstances can be accommodated, unless there is widespread support for the programme then the school will not be able to provide one-to-one devices for pupils.

- **Will this mean that my child is in front of a screen for long periods of time?**

The iPad is intended to be another part of the Teaching and Learning toolkit and not to replace current diverse methods of teaching that our students enjoy. Staff training will continue to focus on effective short-term use of the iPad. It will not be used in every lesson, all lesson. Many of the uses will involve using the video camera or working collaboratively with other students. A lesson with heavy iPad use may see it used as a quizzing tool at the start, to carry out 10 minutes of independent research

in the middle and to photograph written work to swap with a fellow student to peer assess at the end.

- **How is my child kept safe with their iPad?**

We have an Acceptable Use Policy to ensure all pupils adopt a safe and sensible approach to using the device. A series of assemblies and guidance sessions will be organised to ensure all pupils are aware of this policy and are aware of how to use their device appropriately. Throughout the year in lessons, we will be providing best practice advice for our students on how to take care of your iPad.

In addition to this, a Mobile Device Management system (JAMF) will be used by school to provide full control over the device and filter content where necessary whilst the device is in school. This exceptional piece of software is also available for use at home by parents.

- **How is my child protected from social networking sites on their iPad?**

It is possible to block access to certain sites within school on iPads in the same way that it has been with PCs. We also have a duty of care to continue to educate pupils so that they understand the risks associated with social media and use it safely and positively.

- **Not all industry use iPads, how will my child's broader IT skills that may be needed for the future continue to be developed?**

The iPad does not replace the need to teach ICT, this will still be delivered at KS3 to ensure all students can use Microsoft Office effectively. We also feel strongly that we should offer Computing to students, with different courses available at GCSE.

- **How do I sign my child up for the scheme**

Please complete the One-to-One device sign up form and school will set you up with the Parent Portal account with EDDE where your child's iPad can be ordered and payment details setup.

- **Who do I contact if I have any further questions?**

Once you have set up your parent account with MCC then they will be the first point of contact for finance, support and insurance queries. Prior to parent account set up and information about the use of devices in school please contact devicesupport@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk where your query will be directed to the relevant member of staff.