



Frequently Asked Questions: Digital Strategy 2021-22



We are aware that there may be a number of questions and concerns that parents, carers and pupils may have with regards to the Digital Strategy. In this document we have attempted to answer some of the questions that you may initially think of, but feel free to email any more into the school, or ring the school office (01782 297800) to leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

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Any technical questions with regards to the iPads should be directed to Mr Royall (lr@madeley.shaw-education.org.uk)

Why this technology?

The iPad is well suited to providing an extensive range of tools and opportunities to support our educational aims. These include collaboration, independent learning and research, creativity, innovation, and critical thinking. There are a range of technologies that could be beneficial, however after much research, the School decided to adopt a 'single device' approach to mobile learning that uses the Apple iPad. It is lightweight, has reliable software, has a high quality screen, can be switched on almost instantly and has a range of tools that can be beneficial in an educational context.

Will pupils Need an iTunes Account to Use with the iPad?

No the iPads will not require an account to use and the ability to add one will be locked out.

Will Pupils be restricted from Installing their own Music, Games or Apps?

Yes, the apps will only be available from a controlled source and these elements will not be available.

Will Pupils be allowed to Use the School's Wi-Fi network to get Internet Access?

Yes. Pupils will only be allowed to access the internet through the school's network while on campus. No other network will be allowed, such as hotspots, including 3G, 4G or 5G. Pupils found violating this policy may have their access revoked.

What happens if the iPad gets lost or damaged?

The policy and documentation that was signed will be followed to identify if the damage was accidental and then appropriate steps will be taken. The school will have some iPad devices available for short loan during the time pupils are without a device, but these are limited.

Who is responsible if another pupil damages my pupil's iPad?

Individual pupils are responsible for their own iPads and should ensure that they take care of it at all times. The normal disciplinary procedures apply in the event of damage to another pupil's property.

What happens to pupil work if the iPad is lost/damaged/stolen?

Pupils are responsible for ensuring they keep an up-to-date backup of their iPad. This should be done via the school OneDrive. In the event that an iPad is lost, all work that has been backed up by syncing will still be available.

How will the school ensure that the devices are secure?

Pupils must understand that they need to look after their belongings. The devices themselves must also be kept in a protective case to protect from accidental damage. Each pupil will be identified by the personal identification on the device, which will allow them to easily identify the device from the lock screen. Pupils will also be expected to follow school guidance on ensuring that device security settings, back up and passwords are set appropriately.

How do we manage the iPad battery?

Pupils will be expected to charge their iPad each night at home. However, limited charging facilities will be available but these cannot be relied on. The battery life is rated at approximately 10 hours so should easily last a whole school day.

What about Internet safety?

The apps available on the iPad are regulated by Apple and access to the Internet via our Wi-Fi system is filtered. The school has the right to 'manage' the devices to ensure safe and appropriate use at school. Pupils have also received an 'Acceptable IT Use' policy and have received e-safety briefings and updates to support their understanding of their responsibilities and risks online.

The School's standard internet filtering policies apply to the iPad. These filters will block access to any inappropriate content while the device is used on the School network and at home via our cloud filtering service.

For what types of tasks will the iPad be used?

The iPad will be used to access information and online resources. Subject specific apps will also be used to assist in building pupil knowledge. The iPad will allow pupils to create content, including movies, interactive books, mind maps, presentations and text documents. Further subject specific information will be available via departmental Firefly pages.

Will all teachers be using these devices with the pupils at all times?

All teachers were issued with an iPad and are receiving extensive training to further their skills and understanding of the use of such technology in the classroom. iPads will be used where appropriate

in teaching and learning activities. The extent of their use will vary depending on what is being taught. The device is a tool that should be used to aid learning where appropriate. It will be often used in conjunction with printed text and exercise books. The iPad will complement traditional classroom based skills, not replace them.

Will the iPad be used in all classes?

The iPad will be used as a learning tool and will be used in conjunction with a range of more traditional means of teaching and learning including the use of pen and paper! While it is hard to put an exact percentage on their use, our aim over time is that the majority of information that previously was delivered on paper will be given to pupils through the iPad.

Will pupils still be writing using pen and paper? Will handwriting skills still be considered important?

Yes, the iPads are being introduced to enhance learning and teaching. Using a pen and paper is still a vital skill for pupils to learn particularly as examinations will continue to be handwritten.

How are pupils prevented from accessing non-educational apps/websites during class time?

Teachers will monitor the use of iPads in the classroom using a system called Apple Classroom which allows them see what is happening in the iPads at all times, as well as other functionality. Misuse of the iPad in class will be treated the same as any other distracting activity such as the misuse of a mobile phone and normal classroom discipline rules will apply.

What happens if a pupil forgets their iPad or forgets to charge it overnight?

As the iPad is used as a tool to enhance current practices, the pupil will not have access to the additional resources and tools available on the device for that day. This will count as a breach of the behaviour policy, this will be recorded against them if this is a frequent occurrence.

What if my child is not as comfortable using an iPad or as 'tech-savvy' as their friends? How will I set this thing up? How will I help my child download the apps?

Pupils will be shown how to utilise the iPads at school. Pupils will also have training with their form tutor to make sure that they are comfortable using the technology for learning.

Will we be using electronic textbooks (e books)?

This will vary from subject to subject but we expect interactive electronic textbooks to become the norm fairly quickly. With e-books, accessibility is enhanced as colours and fonts can be changed, and sections read out to pupils.

Can pupils print from an iPad?

The big picture here is that we are hoping to move away from printing. The need for printing is expected to decrease significantly for all pupils and staff as a result of 1:1 devices. This is more environmentally friendly.

You can print from an iPad wirelessly using AirPrint. Alternatively, it is very easy to share any file from an iPad via the cloud or email to yourself so it can then be printed from a traditional computer.

Will homework be done on the iPad?

As with teaching there will be a combination of iPad based homework and the more traditional paper based tasks.

At Home

How will I know how much time my pupil will need to use the iPad at home for school work?

The time required will depend on the homework that pupils have to complete. For example, a pupil who is completing a writing task might only need the iPad to access a dictionary or the thesaurus. Another pupil might require more time in order to research and prepare a presentation on a specific topic. Homework will be set on Class Charts as usual, and the iPad will make it quicker for pupils to access this, as well as to view files.

Will I know more detailed information about the homework task so that I can ensure the iPad is being appropriately used for the task?

Homework tasks will be communicated using the same methods that are currently in place; Class Charts. Pupils should be able to determine whether or not they need the iPad to complete their homework tasks.

Will all homework tasks require the iPad? In what way will the iPad be used for homework tasks?

The iPad will be used as an additional resource to assist pupils to complete homework tasks. There may be some tasks that will benefit from the use of the iPad and some that will not need it at all. How the iPad is used will vary from subject to subject. Pupils will be asked to do homework on paper as well as on the iPad.

Do we need Wi-Fi at home?

While not essential Wi-Fi at home will allow pupils to fully utilise online resources. Of course, it is ultimately up to families to decide about this option. If you have accessibility issues at home please contact Mr Royall on lr@madeley.shaw-education.org.uk.

How can I ensure my pupil is not using the iPad inappropriately at home?

Clear boundaries and expectations are the easiest way to achieve this as with the use of all computers in a domestic setting. We recommend that you only allow use of the iPad in open and visible parts of the house, not bedrooms. Establishing a routine where the iPad is checked by parents regularly is also a good idea.

Will you be providing parent help workshops?

Yes. We are planning introductory one hour workshops for parents. These will be detailed via newsletters and on the school website under the parent tab. We will post links to further updates and information to support parents.