



iPads for All

**Guide for Parents
2019**

21st Century Learning at Ormskirk School

Our Vision

Over the last few years, technology has moved on leaps and bounds and profound new opportunities for education have emerged. Communication is changing, methods of learning and working are evolving and if we want our young people to be prepared for the opportunities and challenges they will face, schools must evolve too.



Children spend a lot of time at school, but the learning that takes place at home is also extremely important to their future success. New technology, such as tablet devices, gives us the ability to make learning more engaging and effective in the classroom and the opportunity to extend learning beyond it.

At Ormskirk School we want every student to benefit from these opportunities, ensuring that they can learn independently, work creatively, collaborate productively and communicate effectively anywhere and at any time.

Rationale for iPads



Our iPads for All scheme helps our students to learn in ways that suit them. They can access the internet in any lesson, collaborate with their peers, make use of a range of powerful apps and access learning materials at any time. This can help teachers to design more engaging lessons and purposeful and effective homework. Our teachers and pupils can work more creatively, providing personalised learning opportunities that develop the independence and self-reliance of our students. Parents are able to more easily see the work their children complete in school, and the feedback they receive.

We are justifiably proud of our ICT facilities and we have made on-going investments to ensure that we continue to offer our students the best possible ICT infrastructure. However, as teaching, learning and curricula move forward we are seeing increasing pressure on our ICT resources as more and more students and teachers want access to our computer suites. This is unsustainable and unnecessary in an age of mobile devices, such as tablets and smart phones.

Since October 2013, students at Ormskirk School have been equipped with iPads and in each year group nearly 100% of pupils are now involved in the scheme. During this time, teachers have received on-going training to help them to incorporate the devices into their classrooms and learning activities. Feedback from students and parents has been positive. A summary of this information is available on the website.

Why iPads?

There are a wide range of tablet and portable devices now available. Apart from iPads, most of these work on the Android operating system, with a few operating with Windows. We have given a great deal of careful consideration to these alternatives, but continue to believe that the iPad is the most appealing for a few reasons:

- **Security** - We can make use of Mobile Device Management, a system that helps us to protect student data and manage apps and cameras, and control user accounts in much the same way we currently do on PCs. This is not as developed for Android devices at present. Furthermore, Apple carefully guards its App Store, where the apps are available. This ensures that the quality of the apps is of a high standard, but also prevents any malicious software from being included in them (an increasingly common problem in Android apps).
- **Quality and reliability** – Apple devices have a deserved reputation for durability and build quality. While they may be more expensive than alternative devices, we feel this is an important consideration given how important they will be to our students.
- **Maturity** – Apple is the most established manufacturer of this type of hardware, and while many of the alternative devices are excellent, we feel that these devices are the most proven. Furthermore, Apple’s App Store provides a breadth of educational resources that is not yet rivalled by Android alternatives.

The school has no affiliation with any manufacturer or supplier. We have made our decision on an educational basis, not a technological one. We will, of course, continue monitor and evaluate our systems over time to ensure we provide the best possible solution.

iPads for All Parent Contribution Scheme (£10.85 per month)

We have already committed a large amount of funding to improve our infrastructure, including providing site-wide, flawless Wi-Fi coverage. However, as much as we would like to, we simply cannot afford to provide these devices to all of our students from our limited school budget. Therefore, to ensure the scheme is sustainable, we hope that parents will be willing to take advantage of a parental contribution scheme, which allows the *rental* of a device at a very attractive price.

Each student will receive:

- iPad (10.2inch, Wi-Fi, 32GB)
- Durable and highly protective rubberised case
- High quality toughened glass screen protector
- Warranty cover
- Bundle of apps for use in school
- Insurance cover (accidental damage and theft)
- Technical support

Important

- Due to Pupil Premium funding received by the school, pupils who are currently entitled to free school meals, and those who have claimed free school meals in the last 6 years, are **entitled to a 50% discount** on the monthly payment.
- Parents who have more than one child enrolled in the iPad scheme are **entitled to a 25% discount** on the monthly payment **for additional devices**.

Please contact the school Finance Office if you would like to join the scheme but are concerned that you may be unable to afford the payments.

How does the scheme work?

Pupils who started Year 7 in September 2019:

Parents will make 36 monthly payments of £10.85. These payments will be collected by direct debit, starting in December 2019 and running to November 2022.

Parents will be asked to sign up to the scheme online. We will send out the appropriate links and further details via email when this is available.

At the end of the rental period you may choose to take ownership of the device* or return it to school and have your deposit refunded.

**Your deposit will be retained by the school and a small additional fee may be required.*

Is this good value?

We have worked very hard to ensure that parents are offered as much value for money as possible, as we understand that this is a significant financial commitment. We believe that this scheme **compares very favourably** with alternative methods of purchase, as shown in the *cost comparison* section on the next page. We also believe that the level of monthly contribution being asked of parents is one of the lowest in the country when compared with other schools running similar schemes.

Cost Comparison

The information in the table below shows how the iPads for All rental scheme compares with typical retail purchases (based on RRP and commercial quotes). It does not represent an exhaustive search of available deals, but provides some guidance for parents.

| iPad 10.2 inch 32GB Wi-Fi | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| | Retail purchase (Apple) | iPads for All Rental |
| Up front cost | £349.00 | £40 deposit |
| Rental | - | £390.60 (£10.85 per month for 36 months) |
| Case and screen protector* | £40.00 | Included |
| Warranty | 12 months | 36 months |
| Insurance | £69.00 Min £39 excess fee <u>24</u> months <i>(Accidental damage cover from AppleCare+)</i> | Included No excess <u>36</u> months Includes theft <i>(by force or from secure location)</i> |
| Educational Apps (Paid) | £19.95 (approx.) | Included <i>(Paid apps are assigned to devices and are accessible for the duration of the rental scheme. At the end of the scheme, they may be removed from the device.)</i> |
| Total per device | £477.95 | £430.60 |

***Cases and screen protectors** – it is ESSENTIAL that the devices are kept in the high quality and durable case provided by the school at all times, and that the screen protector provided is not removed. We are aware that cheaper cases and screen protectors are easily obtained, but they will not provide the level of protection required to keep the device safe in daily use in school. Purchasing such cases is a false economy, as they significantly increase the risk of you needing to claim for repair or replacement. Rugged cases and toughened glass screen protectors are available to purchase from school at a greatly reduced cost compared to retail prices.

This information is for comparison purposes only. Cheaper alternatives may be available.

We would urge parents who are considering using credit to purchase an iPad to avoid this where possible and to join the school scheme instead.

Parents' questions answered

Why does my child need his/her own iPad?

Having good ICT skills is becoming a basic requirement of any employer. Children need to be prepared for an increasingly digital world. Research has confirmed that good home access to technology has a positive impact on a child's educational achievements; it often motivates them to do schoolwork by providing more interesting and engaging ways to learn, their work is better presented so their self-esteem grows and they can explore subjects that interest them in their own time.

Why can't the school provide these devices for free?

The school has a limited amount of funding for ICT in school, which primarily pays for the maintenance of our school network. Equipment for use at home and for personal use by your children is over and above this, which is why we have to ask our families to make a contribution. Without your support the programme cannot go ahead.

Does this mean that textbooks and exercise books are a thing of the past?

Absolutely not. Traditional methods of learning and teaching still have an important place in education, and will continue in our school. The iPad should be seen as an additional educational tool, not as a replacement for these methods. We will train our teachers and teach our students to use these devices **productively** and **appropriately**, but sometimes a pen and paper is best!

What if my child already has an iPad?

Some of our students may be fortunate enough to have their own device already. If parents are willing to allow them to bring their devices into school, we are happy for them to do so. We would need to install our management software in order to enable us to provide them with access to our network, web filters and content management. **In order to manage and monitor the devices effectively in school, it will be necessary to reset the device so it can be 'Supervised'.** This means any files stored on the iPad itself will be removed. However, the vast majority of files (including photos and videos) can be saved to 'the cloud' and will not be lost. Clear instructions will be provided to ensure this works effectively.

Our technical support team will provide access to the school network, **but we will not offer any form of insurance or warranty for pupils' own devices.** We would need to install our management software in order to enable us to provide them with access to our network, web filters and content management. In return for access to a substantial package of apps that will be provided to students who are members of the scheme, we would request that parents pay a **one-off admin fee of £25.** This covers the entire time your child is at Ormskirk School, even if they upgrade or change their device.

Pupils who use their 'own device' will be expected to follow exactly the same rules about their use as those who use the school scheme. This means they will also face the same sanctions and consequences should they choose to break the rules. We kindly ask for parents' support in reinforcing this message.

What if my child already has a different type of tablet device?

If your child has their own Android or Windows device, they are welcome to bring these into school (with your permission, of course). We would need to install our management software onto these devices in order to allow them to use our network. This would provide web filtering whilst in school and allow us to manage the devices for safeguarding purposes. We would request that parents pay a one-off admin fee of £10 to contribute towards these costs. However, as the licensing and software on these devices operates differently, we cannot provide the level of subsidy (through the provision of apps) or technical support that we will offer to Apple users.

What if I have more than one child in the school?

We understand that this could be costly and so the school will subsidise the additional cost of buying devices for more than one child. You will pay the full rate for one child and the sibling subsidy rate (£8.15 for current year 7) for any additional children in school.

Please note: Since the current year 9 (2017 intake) scheme ends in January we will not be able to apply the sibling subsidy for year 7 children with siblings on this scheme.

What happens if the iPad gets damaged, lost or stolen?

We have worked hard to provide a balance between cost and cover. The school will provide insurance for **accidental damage** (provided the iPad is in the school-issued case with the glass screen protector in place), and **theft** (if a crime reference number is recorded). Likewise, the warranty will cover any technical problems with the device. However, *if your child loses their iPad, or it is stolen whilst left unattended, the device will not be covered under the insurance policy and you will be liable for the cost of the device.*

If a student damages their iPad (or one belonging to another student) deliberately, or the iPad is damaged while not in its case or whilst without a screen protector, you will be asked to cover any further cost of repair or replacement. Further information about the terms and conditions of the insurance and warranty will be provided.

We have already got a shared iPad at home. Why should I have another?

To gain the maximum benefit from this scheme, we recommend that every child has access to their own dedicated device rather than share with other family members. So unless your child already has his/her own iPad, we encourage you to join the scheme. If you are happy for your child to use your iPad, you may do so, but it should be available to them at all times when they come to school.

Who owns the iPad?

The iPads remain the property of the school throughout the rental period. At the end of the scheme parents can consider the options provided for the continuing use of the device.

Can I pay by cash or cheque?

Collecting cash/cheques involves incurs significant administration costs for the school so we require parents to pay by direct debit.

What happens if I change my mind in a few months?

Changing your mind halfway through the programme would endanger the existence of the scheme and seriously compromise the school's finances as we will have already purchased the iPads. This is a commitment to the children that needs to be seen through.

Will we be able to access the Internet at home?

If you have a wireless network at home the iPad will be able to connect to that. If you do not have one at home then we can advise you on your options.

How can I ensure my child is safe online?

The safeguarding of students is a priority for the school. Through our management system we will have the ability to filter internet access on the iPad in school **and also at home**, helping to ensure that students are not exposed to inappropriate content or software. We will also be able to restrict the use of different apps and functions (such as cameras) where necessary. Students are already taught the importance of eSafety through Skills for Life lessons and assemblies, and this will be reinforced. However, we urge parents to remain vigilant of their child's use of their device, and to make use of the guidance available on our website.

Will our children be safe if they have to carry their iPad home?

We all need to be aware of the risks the children could face on their way home but the number of recorded incidents is very low nationally, and lower still at Ormskirk School. Many of our students currently carry smartphones with them without any issues. iPads have the facility to be locked, tracked (and located if lost) and any data removed remotely. In the unlikely event that a child is approached for their iPad **they should hand it over without resistance and then inform you so you can let the Police and the school know**. We will advise our students about the risks, and how they can reduce them.

How do I stop my child from just playing games?

We want our pupils to learn to manage their use of their iPad, and to learn the discipline to resist the distractions of modern technology. However, we are aware that some children find this easier than others!

When pupils receive the devices in Year 7, the App Store function will be disabled. This will prevent them from downloading additional apps and ensure the device remains a purely educational one.

Will we need to buy any other equipment?

It may be necessary for the school to replace the case and/or screen protector on a student's iPad during the scheme if the original becomes damaged in order to ensure the iPad remains covered by our insurance policy. Where this is necessary the replacement will be charged at cost price (currently £6 and be deducted from the deposit paid. Students must report any damage or problems with cases and screen protectors to ICT Support immediately.

Replacement accessories such as charging leads may be required if your original is lost or damaged. These can be purchased from Ormskirk School. As your warranty cover will be invalidated if non-genuine accessories are connected to your iPad, all accessories supplied by the school are genuine Apple compatible products and are sold at cost price, representing a significant saving. A replacement charging cable is currently £15 from Apple, or £5.50 when purchased through the school.

I really want to join the scheme but I simply can't afford it. What can I do?

A fundamental principle of this scheme is that it is fair and inclusive. We want ALL pupils to benefit from the use of this technology, regardless of financial circumstances. If you are in this position, **please contact the school finance office** and we will do what we can to help you.

What if I don't want to take part in the scheme?

We want our scheme to be equitable and inclusive, and would encourage all families to take part if possible. However, it is your right to choose not to do so. If you opt out your child will not be provided with his/her own device to take home. The school has a system in place to provide them with access to an iPad when it is necessary for learning activities.