

FAQ – 1:1 Technology Program at Glengarry Primary School – Why iPads?

Why introduce a 1:1 Technology Program at GPS?

An effective Digital Technologies program relies on technology being seamlessly integrated across the curriculum. The individual use of personal devices will enable students to reach their full potential in a supported and supervised environment. A 1:1 Technology Program does not diminish the vital role of the teacher. On the contrary, it transforms the teacher from the holder of knowledge to the more powerful role of facilitator of learning. This approach is more responsive, current and specific to meet student needs at any point in time.

Upon investigation it was found that Glengarry students are at a distinct disadvantage in terms of their Digital Technology capabilities going into high school, in comparison to students who have attended a school with a 1:1 Technology Program. This was further reinforced by Duncraig SHS who have stated our students are behind in the capabilities when entering high school.

Why only one type of device?

The 1:1 Technology Program at Glengarry PS is incumbent on a familiar, compatible and common device throughout the school. This will enable teachers to support students with a set of familiar procedures and terminology that can flow into all classrooms and extend across all years over time.

Why Apple iPads?

Glengarry PS has invested heavily and already established an iPad culture in the school. This has included teacher professional learning, student use and hardware. Moving forward, the iPad offers many positives such as;

Stability & Security: The iPad operating systems, App Store and the device itself has the reputation of being robust and intuitive. Apps are tested and updated regularly making them easily accessible across all versions. Many include flexible off-line access when a Wi-Fi connection is not available. Security features and restrictions provided by Apple through the device can be activated. Internet traffic will continue to be filtered by the Department of Education's filter system, as well as Apple Classroom. It should also be noted that a number of schools that commenced with laptops as part of their 1:1 Program, have since switched to iPads.

Primary School Focused: The iPad device is well suited to primary school aged students being transportable, easily managed, easy-to use and adaptable across a range of environments at home and school. The devices can be easily stored and used immediately, making them highly responsive to supporting the learning environment. Apps recommended by the school are based on the needs of primary aged children and chosen for their dynamic and vibrant learning opportunities.

Economic: The cost effectiveness of the iPad is a consideration. A new iPad (from \$441) can be used over a number of years. Devices used after primary school may require more complex programming and keyboarding suited to secondary education.

