Frequently Asked Questions

Why the iPad?
The ICT sub-committee of the School Board spent considerable time formulating the ICT vision for the school. It was during this process that the school community gave feedback on what the future of ICT at Dalkeith should look like. Three significant areas emerged that were requirements for student use. These were content creation, development of higher order thinking strategies and global connections. The committee considered all devices/options and the iPad was seen to meet all requirements. These have been thoroughly trialled over the past two years and the research undertaken has confirmed that the iPad is the best option for the students at Dalkeith.

What about students whose parents do not choose or cannot afford to be involved in the program?
A limited number of devices will be set aside for students to access during the day. These may remain at school overnight. Furthermore, the school community is exploring ways to cater for families that are unable to provide their children with a device.

Which iPad should I purchase?
Either the iPad 3 or newer are equally fine. We ask that all families keep their iPad current by always updating to the latest iOS firmware, which is currently at 8.1.1.

WiFi Only Option
We recommend the WiFi only models, as there are no re-occurring monthly charges since the devices can only use available wireless networks. While at school, the WiFi devices will be able to access the school network. We do not recommend purchasing the 3G enabled iPads as you will be enabling your child to have connectivity via a mobile phone plan. If your child brings a 3G enabled iPad to school, we will require that the 3G is turned off and that only the WiFi is used while on school grounds.

Hard Drive Size
For the majority of students the 16 GB model has proven to be too small. Students will be using the device for content creation which uses a lot of storage. The school recommends the 32 GB model, however it is up to the family to determine which size iPad to purchase.

The iPad that is brought to school is intended for learning and not as a game console or movie player. This will also be explained to students in an information session in Week 1, Term 1 2015. Students will also be required to sign a comprehensive Online/Device User Agreement agreeing to abide by the school rules.

Should I purchase insurance with my child’s iPad?
We strongly recommend you purchase iPad insurance. If parents choose the leased package from Winthrop Australia it will be provided with the device. Parents can also adjust their home and contents insurance to cover the device. Otherwise, iPad insurance can be purchased from many different providers at different rates.

When does my child bring their iPad to school?
All year 4 and 5 students will need a device by the start of the 2015 school year.

What parent support will be available?
The school will provide workshops on a variety of issues including: use of the iPad and related applications, cybersafety, health and technical support.

An Apple Genius Bar will also be set-up in the library in the morning before school and run by our student Digital Leaders to assist parents and students with technical issues.

My child has different electronic media device. Can they use one of those devices instead?
Unfortunately we cannot support these devices and therefore they are not permitted. The
primary reason is that many of the new interactive applications only work on the Apple iPad and are mostly only available through the Apple iTunes store on the iPad device.

**What applications (apps) does my child need to have on their iPad for school?**
A full list of the required apps will be provided by email to parents prior to the end of the school year. Each one will have a link to the iTunes store for easy downloading. Teachers may ask students to download additional apps once the year has begun however this will rarely occur.

**Do other schools have 1:1 programs?**
Yes. Many other government primary schools have 1:1 programs. These include Subiaco, Currambine, Piara Waters, Harmony, Aubin Grove, Manjimup, Kalgoorlie, Kingston, Treendale and Dunsborough Primary Schools.

Our local secondary schools both government (i.e. Shenton) and Independent (i.e. Scotch and PLC) use 1:1 Apple products as part of their educational program.

**How often will the devices be used?**
iPad screentime will not be more than 50% of the school day. Students will continue to do the usual range of lessons that will not involve technology.

**How will the internet be monitored?**
Internet connection is filtered through the Department of Education. Filters can be installed at home and it is recommended that devices are used in an area where it can be seen by an adult.

**Will the teachers be able to handle each child bringing their own iPad? Not every teacher in the school is at the right standard.**
The teachers at DPS are participating in an ongoing professional learning program. There are currently three iPad coaches in the teaching staff that are mentoring different teachers across the school through modelling of lessons and classroom coaching. ICT is embedded in all School Development Days. Tekkie Brekkie sessions are run before and after school for all staff. The teachers in the year 4 and 5 classes will be carefully selected with the 1:1 program in mind.

**Will it just be an expensive book?**
Teachers are being trained in the best ways to use the device. Research shows that the device is transformative when used as a creation tool not a substitute for pencil and paper. The iPad in-class coaching program walks teachers through this process to ensure the devices are being used to their maximum potential. The process for selecting applications for use on the iPad at DPS is rigorous. Teachers are required to submit a form justifying the application and its use in the classroom. If the ICT committee deem it to be a substitution app it will not be added to the devices. Alternative methods are investigated that align with best practice.

**I’m worried I won’t be able to control what my kids access.**
Parent information sessions will be provided throughout the year. The first will be iPad 101 for basic training on how to use the device. Following this the school will be looking to provide a security session informing parents on how to keep children safe online. These will run throughout the year and will be provided on a needs basis.

**I’m worried about online bullying. What will the school do to prevent this?**
Dalkeith Primary School believes that this issue is one that is to be approached as a whole school community. Teachers can police what goes on in the classroom and any misuse whilst using a device will be handled according to the DPS Student Online agreement that
is signed yearly by both students and parents. Anything that happens after hours will be investigated by the school and will be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

**What happens if my child breaks or loses their iPad? Will they be able to borrow one from the school?**
As long as there is one available, students will be able to borrow a device temporarily from the school.

**How often will I need to update the model of the iPad? Will I need to buy more than one during my child’s time at Dalkeith PS?**
Although it is recommended that a device is no more than 3 years old if the device is able to complete all the tasks required it is up to parents to decide on when it should be replaced.

**I have two children at school. Can they share a device?**
An iPad was never designed to be a shared device. Students will be required to complete ongoing tasks on the device that will require the use of many different applications at different times of the day - anytime learning. It would make it difficult for students to manage sharing with a sibling as at times, they will both need the device. In addition content could be accidentally deleted that is needed to complete assignments.

**How much will the apps cost?**
A $100 app budget has been set for the year (parent-funded). Students that are not bringing a new device (iPad Air and above) will need to buy the iWork suite of apps (iMovie, Pages, Numbers, Garage Band and Keynote). These apps cost around $10 each. Therefore we needed to ensure that each family budgeted for the purchase of these apps as well as about $50 more for use during the school year. All new devices have the iWork suite of apps come as standard and will not need to spend the $100 budget. It will more likely be around $50 for the year.

**Will any stationary costs be offset by the purchase of the iPad?**
Teachers have looked at the school book lists for the coming year and have removed quite a few items that will not be needed due to the provision of an iPad. The school, regardless of the funding cuts next year, has increased school fees only marginally for the year levels that have been asked to bring in a device.

**What is not going to happen in class as a result of implementing digital tools?**
- No reduction in attention to the core curriculum areas
- No missed opportunities for creation of multi-modal learning according to the Australian Curriculum
- No missed opportunities for development of higher order thinking skills
- No missed opportunities for global connections
- No reduction in specialist teaching time or extra curricula activities i.e. Adventure Challenge

**How will inappropriate use be governed? i.e. downloading inappropriate apps etc.**
Parent training will be scheduled throughout the year with the earliest being iPad 101 which will outline ways to add restrictions that will prevent downloading and deleting apps and disabling the Safari browser and Airdrop.

A video tutorial will be provided on the website providing a guide to creating a student Apple ID that is not connected to a credit card or is able to download apps without a password.

Other parent training sessions will include CyberSafety and Application training. Other sessions will be scheduled on a needs basis.