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## *iPads at O'Connor Primary School*

### *3- 6 BYOD Program*

Dear Parents

These are exciting times for your children in education as they share, develop and communicate using available Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). Students today need the knowledge, skills and confidence to make ICT work for them in school and beyond. Moreover, students will need to be highly skilled in using the technologies to build towards higher or more advanced learning.

### **Expectations of the Western Australian Curriculum**

Under the West Australian Curriculum, it is expected that students learn to use ICT effectively and appropriately to access, create, and communicate information and ideas, solve problems and work collaboratively in all learning areas at school.

The following link outlines curriculum expectations for the end of Foundation (PP), Year 2, 4 and 6 in the areas of

- Applying social and ethical protocols and practices when using ICT
- Investigating with ICT
- Creating with ICT
- Communicating with ICT
- Managing and operating ICT

<http://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/p-10-curriculum/general-capabilities-over/information-and-communication-technology-ict-capability/learning-continuum>

Together, the teachers and School Board have researched current ICT best practice in education and O'Connor Primary School's current and future capacity to deliver this. With this at the forefront, the School Board has strongly supported the introduction of a 1:1 program.

1:1 programs are our next step towards individualising learning, which can increase independence and self-initiated learning in students, and extend their learning beyond the classroom.

### **Overview**

1:1 programs are also known as 'anywhere, anytime' programs. These programs provide students with personal portable computers to enhance opportunities for learning. The devices help nurture individual (or 1:1) learning experiences.

In the past few years, a broad range of schools in Western Australia have chosen to introduce 1:1 laptops or iPads. These programs mean that every child in particular year levels has a parent funded (via lease or purchase) laptop/iPad that is used by the student at school as a tool to support their learning. In all cases, these programs have been introduced after careful consideration by the school and engagement with the school community.

At O'Connor Primary, we currently have 48 laptops, 100 desktops and 300 iPads for use across K-6. Over the past 3 years we have spent over \$220 000 on ICT. We have ensured access and opportunity, providing each K-3 class with pods of 8 iPads each and Year 4-6 classes with additional iPads. Each class also has an Interactive Whiteboard and an apple TV. The school has also begun investing in a range of robots to assist with implementing the Digital Technologies Curriculum. While these ICT resources have been very welcomed in the school, ongoing funding at this level is not sustainable.

### **What was implemented in 2016**

In 2016 the school continued the 1:1 parent funded iPad program for years 3 & 4. The school iPads were used in collaboration with the programs that were already running within the school and allowed for students to enhance learning areas.

In 2017 the program will be continued in years 3-5 and introduced to the Year 6 classes. In cases where parents are unable to purchase or lease, students will access shared school devices. Year Six classrooms will still maintain the current 1:2 ratio of iPads supplied by the school but opening up the program to the Year 6's will give them the opportunity to benefit from the program.

### **What next?**

To help parents with this transition and to make the right decision regarding the devices the school has setup learning sessions to discuss issues and concerns and to help with setting up the device.

This is an exciting program that will make a difference to your child's learning opportunities. I look forward to working with you as we got through the process.

Yours sincerely

Steve Delfs  
Principal  
9<sup>th</sup> November 2016