



Dear Parents/Caregivers

Bring Your Own (BYO) iPad for Year 5

As you may be aware, The Gardens School is a leading school in ICT innovation and our e-Learning programs have been the envy of neighbouring schools. Our Board and staff have worked hard to develop a plan that will ensure we continue to offer exceptional programs to our students. You will also be aware of the Government initiative to develop digital technologies in schools and the recent release of the new Digital Technologies curriculum and significant investment in supporting New Zealand schools to be at the forefront in this area.

From Year 5, students are asked to bring their own iPad to school. The only cost to families will be the cost of the iPad (and a small cost for some Apps). We will begin the journey to use this tool to prepare students for a future where they are likely to be working in an environment with increasing amounts of technology and IT/collaborative/cloud based tools.

The school realises the investment parents need to make with a BYO iPad initiative and we would like it to be as easy as possible. PB TECH works with our school to provide much of our current ICT infrastructure and they are offering our families a package deal:

<https://www.pbtech.co.nz/education/byod/the-gardens-school>

Promo Code BYOD2019

Please remember that an Apple iPad is the only device compatible with our school systems as we run entirely on a Mac platform.

Students who do not have a device will still have access to our school owned devices, iPads and laptops, which have been provided in classes. To support this ongoing innovation we will continue to develop the ICT infrastructure in our Year 0 to Year 4 classes, so that students already have the foundation skills when they reach Year 5. This year our year 4's were provided with a device each to begin this journey.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification.

Yours sincerely

Susannah Fowler
Principal

Christine Hansen
Lead Teacher ICT



Why 'Bring Your Own' (BYO) iPad?

Anecdotal evidence from other New Zealand primary schools indicates greater **student motivation, engagement, collaboration, depth** in learning, **flexibility** and **student autonomy** of learning.

- Teachers can use media to meet different learning needs.
- BYOD allows students to be in control of their learning.
- BYOD bridges the gap between in school and at home learning.
- Educators can teach technology etiquette and ethics, which is becoming increasingly necessary. BYOD can be managed like any other resource in the classroom.
- BYOD makes collaboration easier. Research can also be done faster. More diverse sources can be used to support learning.
- Bring your own device puts students in a position of power over their learning. Many educational researchers argue that giving students the authority over their own learning is best: the teacher becomes a manager of learning, rather than a direct source of information. Students might use technology to formulate their own questions about topics, instead of having the teacher pose inquiries.
- Students can use communication features to engage in projects that require contacting the community or local leaders.
- Educators have a responsibility to prepare the millennial generation to enter the workforce. Teaching students to use portable devices is necessary.

This means that students will enjoy learning both with their devices and also with more traditional means of learning, as both types of pedagogy are valid. Keeping in mind the considerable investment we are asking parents to make on these devices, teachers will endeavour to utilise devices as much as possible during the school day, as well as using them for home tasks. We are mindful of the implications of too much screen time and students will also be encouraged to take breaks from their screen, as required for their health and for the diversity of the teaching program.

Common Questions Parents Have When Schools Implement BYOD Programs

Will the use of these devices in classrooms cause my child to be distracted?

iPads at school will only be used for educational purposes. Research shows that learners are more engaged and motivated by this type of learning. As with all learning styles, teachers will also have procedures and guidelines in place for ensuring that high quality and productive learning is happening.

How is access to potentially harmful material limited at school?

As with all internet use at The Gardens School, there is a filter that will block visiting sites with a potentially harmful nature. We are able to monitor students' emails and correspondence in the Google Suite so as to limit potential negative behaviour and exposure here at school. We also monitor student blogs through CampusPress. The Cybersafety agreement that students and parents sign has very clear guidelines for what to do if and when an issue occurs.

How will the device be kept safe at school?

Classrooms will have procedures in place for looking after BYO iPads. Although every effort will be taken to keep devices safe, by both the students and the teachers, the overall responsibility lies with the student to follow these procedures, to ensure the safety of their device. It is expected that students will have a hard cover to protect their iPad and we will teach about caring for digital devices. The school accepts no liability for loss or damage of any students' items, so it is important that the care of any device is reinforced at home and at school. As such, these devices will need to be insured under your own home and contents insurance.

What about the other students who do not have a device?

Students who do not have a device will have access to school owned devices, as both ipads and laptops have been provided in classes for some years. The downside for students not having their own device is that they will be unable to access work from home, that they have been doing in class which may affect the continuity of work.

Do I need to purchase my device from PB TECH?

No. PB TECH has provided us with a package deal that includes a cover, earphones and insurance for convenience (and at a great price!), but you are by no means obligated to use this deal.

What if I decide to wait before purchasing a device?

Devices can be purchased at anytime. Students will still continue to learn in a 'blended learning' style. . If you feel like you need more information about BYO iPad, Blended Learning or the iPads before you purchase, please get in touch with our Principal, Susannah Fowler or our lead teacher of ICT, Christine Hansen.

iPad Requirements

iPad 6th Gen or 7th Gen