



Mount Pleasant Road Primary School & Kindergarten

(Nunawading)

BYOD iPad Program: Important Information for Year 2 Families - September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Commencing in Year 3 and extending through the Senior School, our BYOD Program aims to cultivate effective digital learners—confident, creative, and innovative in a digital world. In place since 2016, this program has been met with critical acclaim from students, teachers, and families alike. In years 3-6, students bring their iPads to school daily, transforming the teaching and learning experience and providing opportunities for creativity, collaboration, research, and diverse learning approaches through Google Workspace for Education. Differentiated instruction using iPads supports teachers to cater to students' diverse needs, providing tools for inclusion, accessibility, and enrichment, and allowing a focus on developing essential digital technology skills.

iPads are the device of choice in our school because they are fast, interactive, and versatile, and offer a variety of educational apps. The interface is simple to use and students are able to practice independent digital learning with minimal technical support. The use of iPads complements our Coding Program, where we have integrated Sphero, Dash and Dot, Ozobot, and Botley to foster problem-solving, ethical responsibility, and mathematics and language skills. We maintain an emphasis on handwriting and bookwork alongside our digital activities, and ensure balanced device use with screen-free learning.

Students can bring an iPad that the family owns or purchase a new one. We recommend a 9th Generation "regular" iPad (not Mini) or later, as these are most compatible with our software. Headphones are required, and a protective cover is mandatory to help prevent accidental damage. It is highly recommended that you also purchase or lease a keyboard (which can be included in the case/cover), as this supports students to develop typing skills and is a support for completing NAPLAN assessments. Please note that the school does not provide insurance, and we recommend checking your home insurance coverage. If you do not have an iPad and are not in the position to purchase one, please contact the school and we can discuss leasing or other options.

Our policies and agreements, [found on our school website](#), ensure responsible online behaviour. As an accredited eSmart school, we emphasise the importance of developing cyber safety skills and in Term One we offer a CyberSafety incursion for students and an information session for families. At the beginning of each school year, our app list and 'Acceptable Use Agreement' is sent home to families, outlining how iPads and technology are used at school. Parents/ carers are responsible for managing iPad usage outside school hours. We recommend using devices in shared spaces, with regular checks, time limits and parental controls.

We are currently reviewing our Digital Technologies Policy in line with the Department's schedule. This may result in some changes to our program from 2025. Any changes that come about as a result, including to the provision and management of devices, will be implemented over time. This means that if you purchase an iPad for your child going into Year 3 in 2025, they will be able to continue using this device for the remainder of their time at MPRPS. More information will be communicated through the newsletter as the review progresses.

For detailed information about our BYOD Program, please see our [Frequently Asked Questions](#). We appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to a successful partnership in fostering your child's digital education.

Warm regards,
Kim Streitberger

Principal