

One-to-One Device Scheme

Information for Parents/Carers



Enhancing Learning and Teaching

Digital technology is an integral part of our lives and an important and useful resource for us all. Having good IT skills, like Literacy and Numeracy, is now a very basic requirement of any employer. Children need to be prepared for an increasingly digital world. Research has confirmed that good *home access* to technology has a positive impact on a child's educational achievements; it often motivates them to do schoolwork by providing more interesting and engaging ways to learn; they can easily revisit previous learning to consolidate and extend their understanding and they also can explore subjects that interest them in greater depth in their own time.

Before introducing iPads in September 2017, we looked at a range of possible devices with one key objective in mind: **to find the device that would best support our students' learning both in school and at home, now and in the future.**

The device itself needed to be robust, intuitive to use and provide flexible compatibility with the school's current and future curriculum and IT infrastructure. The technology also needed to be sustainable and provide access to high quality apps. After extensive research, our choice of device was the Apple iPad 32GB WiFi, with Google (Education) Suite as our main learning platform. We are not complacent, and do not take the potential risks related to new technology lightly. Therefore teachers, parents and students consistently work together to ensure its safe use. At the Richmond upon Thames School (RTS) we believe it is essential to educate students on e-safety issues; teaching them the appropriate behaviours and critical thinking skills to enable them to remain both safe and legal when using the internet and related technologies, in and beyond the context of the classroom.

Why should every student have their own device?

- It is not future technology. It is the present in terms of your child's experience of mobile phones, internet and personalised technology. It will be their future working/learning experience.
- iPads help students organise, communicate, learn and study at home and in school.
- Individual access to technology is not something that should happen in a few rooms at school. It should be for everyone, everywhere, anytime. iPads allow that.
- Why would we not want students to have access to the greatest source of information ever assembled and study in their own innovative and personalised way?
- We need to see the potential of tablets, and see them as a means of education for students not just entertainment. Students need to learn about safe, effective, educational use of technology.
- We want to make the educational experience for students at RTS as varied, dynamic and stimulating as possible.

What about traditional learning and teaching methods?

- As passionate as we are about the opportunities that iPads and technology offer, we are also keen to ensure that other important traditional skills such as writing, sketching and group discussions continue
- The role of iPads is to enhance and extend learning opportunities rather than replace those currently being used.

What if I don't want to take part?

- When setting up the school, the DfE supported our approach to using technology to enhance learning. Digital technology is one of our specialist learning areas.
- While we would encourage all families to take part, it is your right to choose not to do so. If you opt out, your child will not be provided with his/her own device to take home. They will be provided with a device within lessons where iPads are being used.
- These iPads will be returned to the class teacher at the end of the lesson.
- Students who do not have an iPad can access Google Classroom on desktop computers at home and in school; in supervised areas at break and lunchtime and after school.



My child already owns an iPad

- Students who already have an iPad will be allowed to use them at the school.
- Due to safeguarding procedures these iPads would need to be factory reset (blanked), set up and fully controlled by the school's mobile device management system (MDM).
- The self-owned iPad should not be more than one year old and meet the specification of those used in school. If this is your preferred option, more details will be shared regarding specifications which can run the school's MDM software.
- Parents/carers will also need to agree to the school Acceptable Use Agreement, the Behaviour for Learning policy and the Personal iPad-use Agreement, which essentially asks you to agree to your personal iPad being treated as a school iPad, that can be confiscated if, for example, your child was not complying with school's acceptable use agreements and other policies.

Will our children be safe if they have to carry the iPad home?

- We all need to be aware of the risks the children could face on their way to and from school.
- We remind students that their iPads should be kept in their bags and out of sight whilst travelling to and from school.
- The software we install on school iPads enable us to lock, track (locate if lost) and remove any data remotely.
- In the unlikely event that a child is approached for their iPad, we remind them that they should hand it over without resistance and then inform you so you can let the Police and the School know.
- Since introducing iPads, we have had no reports of students being accosted for their device.

What are the principles of the 'one-to-one' iPad scheme?

We have looked very carefully at the options for the one-to-one iPad scheme and we have a solution that delivers the following objectives:

- **Fairness** – we want all students to benefit from the use of iPads, regardless of financial circumstances. We hope that all parents who are able to contribute will do so.
- **Sustainability** – we want a scheme that will be sustainable for the school in the light of tough budgets ahead.
- **Affordability** – we want the monthly contribution to be as low as possible.

What will the students get?

As part of our leasing package, students will receive:

- An iPad Air 2 32GB (black) (RRP £339.00)
- A versatile Dux protective case (RRP £35.00)
- Warranty and insurance against theft and accidental damage including screen damage and liquid submersion (RRP £71.00)
- Device management software (RRP £20.00)
- A range of apps provided by the School, including Google Suite plus other Apple Apps
- Access to their personal homework assignments through Google Classroom
- Access to their user area, our e-books fiction and non-fiction library, subject e-textbooks as well as Google drive at school and home



The Scheme and its affordability

- Governors have been keen to ensure our proposal is affordable to all parents/carers whatever their personal circumstances.
- Therefore we have engaged a leasing partner to manage the scheme on our behalf.

What if I cannot afford to pay for the scheme?

If your child is entitled to free school meals, we will ask you to make a reduced contribution of £5 per month. You are eligible for free school meals if you are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension
- Credit Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

If you are not receiving free school meals, but feel you may be eligible, please contact the school office for the relevant forms.

What happens if I can't make the regular contribution?

- **No child will be excluded from the scheme because of their financial circumstances so please come and talk to us so we can ensure your child is included.**
- **Contact Mr Boddy (School Business Manager) to discuss how we may be able to help.**



RM books



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How much will the scheme cost?

- To move forward with our plans, we are reliant on parents sharing our vision and supporting the scheme.
- By negotiating with suppliers and buying hardware in large quantities we have put together a package which represents excellent value for money.
- To keep our proposals affordable iPads can be issued to students on a lease basis, however there is also an option to buy.

The leasing scheme will be funded by parent contributions of £11 per month

Who owns the iPad?

- Throughout the lease term of 3 years the device will remain the property of RTS. Ownership of this device will transfer to you on completion of all agreed contributions (which will include a final contribution of £25).
- There is also an option of one upfront contribution of £365 (against RRP of £465).
- Once all contributions have been made and the insurance term has been completed the Richmond upon Thames School will not request any further contributions and the device will be yours to keep, however you will have the option to upgrade your device should you wish to.

What happens if the iPad gets damaged or lost?

- The iPad will be insured for accidental damage (provided it is in the recommended case) and theft.
- However, if your child is careless or damages the iPad deliberately you will be asked to cover the cost of repair. If the iPad is lost, it will not be covered by the insurance policy.

Why should I pay if others don't?

- We hope that parents/carers see the benefits of the scheme. However, we cannot force parents/carers to pay.
- Students' whose parents/carers pay into the scheme will receive an iPad to take home.

Will we need to buy any other equipment?

- Ideally every student should have access to the Internet at home.
- The devices are managed by the school, which prevents students from buying (paid for or free) Apps
- As a school we will never ask you directly to purchase Apps.
- Moving forward, we are developing a school App store which will include paid for (by the school) and free Apps that have been evaluated and approved by staff.

Why can't the school provide these for free?

- The School receives a small amount of funding for IT in school which pays for our network, the website, IT suites, printers and software.
- Equipment for use at home and for personal use by your children is over and above this, which is why we are asking families to support the scheme.
- Without parents' support for our vision for learning and teaching, your child will not be able to take a personal device home.

How will students' work be assessed/marked?

- Work submitted through Google Classroom will be assessed within the Google Classroom.
- Student will still complete written homework and extension tasks in their subject exercise books, sketchbooks or workbooks which is assessed in the respective book.

What happens next?

Further details will be given at the Year 6 Parents'/Carers' Induction Evening in July as well as guidance on how to access the iPad portal and the ordering process. However, you can review this now by visiting:

<https://www.cpu.co.uk/mobilelearning/richmond>
Portal Code: **richmond2018**

Please contact us if you have any questions.

T: 0208 891 2985
E: info@rts.richmond.sch.uk