



Swanbourne Primary School BYOD FAQ

Everything parents need to know

Why iPads?

iPads are chosen for their **durability**, **user-friendliness**, and **educational app availability**. They seamlessly integrate with our curriculum, enhancing learning through interactive and engaging experiences. iPads also offer excellent accessibility features, ensuring all students can participate fully. iPad and Apple Mac programs are now common across WA schools. Swanbourne Primary School chose iPads rather than MacBooks as primary school children are able to complete most activities on this device and it provides continuity for the families and children across years and in some cases throughout their upper-primary and into their high school years.

Why Apple?

Stability – The iPad operating system has the reputation of being robust and intuitive.

Security – The Apple App Store tests all new apps before releasing them to the public, ensuring no inappropriate content appears. The android app store is an open-source platform anyone can upload to. The apps are not checked and leave people exposed to unwanted content.

Continuity – Apps perform the same way on all recent versions of the iPad, making it easier to cater for a variety of devices over time. Apple updates are pushed through automatically, once downloaded, ensuring users are consistently using the most up-to-date versions of the software. The Apple ID system allows users to change devices without losing any apps.

Curriculum – The Department of Education iPad trial has resulted in a close relationship between the Apple Education team and WA schools. This relationship continues to bring benefits to Swanbourne students, staff and community to create a rich learning environment for our students.

Why Jamf and Jamf Parent?

Jamf is the No.1 Apple Mobile Device Management (MDM) solution, trusted by more than 76,600 businesses, schools, and hospitals worldwide. It allows the school to configure iPads with the correct settings, apps and security configurations.

Jamf Safe Internet is a tool that helps students safely navigate the internet across mobile platforms. It works by blocking unsafe or inappropriate content, protecting against malware, phishing, and other malicious attacks, and providing best-in-class network threat prevention so students can learn securely from anywhere.

Jamf Parent allows parents to manage certain aspects of their child's iPad at home, such as **setting time limits** and **restricting app usage**, promoting a healthy digital balance. [Jamf Parent Guide for Parents | Jamf](#)

How is The Internet Filtered?

The internet access is filtered by the Fortigate firewall's Fortiguard service (This is maintained and updated via DOEs maintenance contract).

How Much Screen Time?

Encourage a balanced approach to screen time. The **Australian Government Department of Health** recommends limiting screen time for children and promoting other activities. Use Jamf Parent or iPad's built-in **Screen Time** feature to set healthy limits.

Students in the upper years at Swanbourne Primary School, such as Year 5, spend no more than one **hour per day** using iPads during school hours. Teachers carefully plan lessons to balance digital and non-digital activities, ensuring that device use is mindful and purposeful.

Will my Child Still Learn to Read and Write?

Yes! Literacy and Numeracy are the top priorities of Swanbourne Primary School. The iPad program has been introduced to **enhance and extend these skills**. Studies have shown the best way to master a new skill is to practice and many Apps are designed to repeat and practice various skills and knowledge. The use of iPads in a classroom setting offers new and engaging ways for the students to practice a wide range of skills identified in the Australian and WA Curriculums.

What to do About Digital Wellbeing and Cyber Safety?

Teach your child about **responsible online behaviour**, including respecting others, protecting personal information, and identifying potential risks. Resources are available from organisations such as the **eSafety Commissioner** to help guide these conversations.

Aligned with the WA Curriculum, Swanbourne Primary School teaches students to maintain balance in their digital lives, use technology responsibly and safely, and understand cyber safety, including

how to protect personal information and avoid unsafe online behaviour. Students also develop general capabilities such as ICT competence, critical thinking, and ethical understanding.

Why Year 4 Students Need an iPad?

From Year 4 onwards, iPads become an integral part of the learning process at Swanbourne Primary School. They support the WA Curriculum's General Capabilities, including ICT competence, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability, and ethical understanding. Using individual devices allows students to access, **create, and share learning in innovative ways**, while developing essential digital literacy skills and fostering independent learning. In the middle and upper years, students use iPads to design, create, investigate, and present information across a wide range of interest areas, enabling **deeper engagement with curriculum content** and promoting a higher level of student-centred learning.

Can the Device be Stored at School?

Yes, parents may choose to leave their child's device at school. At the end of each day, devices will be stored in a central location in the classroom when not in use. Classrooms will remain locked when unattended and teachers ensure they are collected, accounted for, and stored safely. Devices will not be sent home without explicit parent permission.

What About Insurance?

Consider insuring your child's iPad against **accidental damage, loss, or theft**. Check your home insurance policy or explore specialised device insurance options such as those offered through JB HiFi. Keep a record of the iPad's serial number for insurance purposes. The Department of Education does **not** insure personal items.

Can my Child Access Work at Home?

Students are encouraged to save their work to **OneDrive**, which can be accessed outside of school on home devices. This ensures continuity of learning even if the iPad remains at school.

What are the Recommended iPad Specs?

We recommend the following iPad specifications:

- **Operating System:** iPadOS 26
- **Storage:** Minimum 128 GB (256 GB recommended if purchasing new)

- **Screen Size:** Minimum 9.7” (not an iPad mini)
- **Accessories:** A robust protective case, preferably with a non-Bluetooth inbuilt keyboard

These specifications ensure compatibility with school resources and provide optimal performance for learning.

Where Should I get the iPad From?

The choice is yours. Many retailers are involved in supplying BYOD iPads for students. Retailers should provide packages that include the iPad, case, keyboard, setup support and related service. The school has set up a purchasing portal through **JB HiFi** for your convenience. This ensures families purchase the required iPad specifications and accessories at a discounted education price.

What if we Have an Older iPad?

If your family already has an iPad and you would like to send this to school with your child, you do not need to purchase a new device at this time – providing it is capable of operating with the required capacity. Be aware older iPads may have limited functions and may not support the required learning areas apps.

Do we Provide Chargers and Cables?

Parents should provide chargers and cables that are compatible with their child's iPad, as newer cables may not work with older models. For ease of setup and compatibility, a new device in its original packaging is recommended.

How are the Devices Identified?

Clearly label your child's iPad with their **name** and **class**. This helps prevent loss or misidentification. Consider using a durable label or engraving for permanent identification.

Each device is allocated to the student who owns it. The school will mark devices with a simple sticker or number system, which ensures accountability and prevents mix-ups.

Will my Child Have to Share the iPad I Paid For?

It is important the child whose parents have purchased an iPad is the **primary user of the device**. Sharing of iPads will only occur where there is no disadvantage to its owner. Sharing is important for schools and families to develop within their children, and this will occur where appropriate. Students who have not provided their own device, will need to share a school provided iPad.

Which Browser is Used at School?

The default browser used on student iPads is **Safari**. This browser is configured with Fortigate firewall's Fortiguard to ensure safe browsing.

Who is Responsible for Device Maintenance?

Regularly clean the iPad screen with a **soft, lint-free cloth**. Keep the device away from **extreme temperatures** and **liquids**.

Install software updates promptly. Back up important data regularly to prevent loss. If the device is kept at school, this will be managed on site.

What Will Happen if a Child Misuses a Device?

The school has a clear policy regarding acceptable use of devices. Misuse, including **cyberbullying**, **accessing inappropriate or unauthorised content**, or **disrupting learning**, will result in disciplinary action. Parents are encouraged to discuss responsible device use with their children.

Summary

This FAQ provides essential information about the Swanbourne Primary School BYOD program. By working together, we can ensure that iPads are used effectively and safely to enhance your child's learning experience. Please contact the school if you have any further questions.