

MOUNT HAWTHORN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Together towards the future



**1:1
TECHNOLOGY
PROGRAM**

**A snapshot of 1:1 Technology Program
at Mount Hawthorn Primary School**

1:1 Technology Program (iPads)

Mount Hawthorn Primary School students are at the forefront of all decision-making.

In the Western Australian Curriculum, students develop Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capability as they 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 and in their lives beyond school. In addition, Digital Technologies is a core learning area that aims to develop students' knowledge, digital solutions and computational thinking while building an understanding of safe, ethical and respectful protocols and practices.

For students to have access to their full curriculum entitlement, a 1:1 device environment in upper primary is required and provides the following benefits:

- Access to wide range of tools when needed to enhance learning
- Greater independence and self-initiated learning among students
- Students able to present their understanding in more varied ways
- Improved student motivation and active engagement in learning
- Improved teacher capacity to plan for and meet individual student needs
- Improved parental engagement in learning
- Strengthened communication between home and school

In collaboration with the staff, parents and School Board, Mount Hawthorn Primary School has had a 1:1 program in place for the last 2 years with mixed results. In 2023, the school will transition to a parent-funded, school-managed 1:1 iPad program, beginning with Year 5 students.

Why iPads?

The school carried out an extensive device evaluation exercise. The criteria used to evaluate devices included curriculum requirements, teacher professional learning, user experience, safety and security, cost and hardware capability. Based on these criteria, the iPad was clearly the most suitable learning device to enhance student learning and allow for access to the full curriculum.

It is no surprise that iPads are by far the most common device in Australian primary schools. Of those WA public primary schools with a 1:1 device program, over 90% use iPads as their preferred device.

Benefits to employing iPads include:

- Familiar to many school staff and students; Apple has 78% market share of tablets in Australia
- Simple to navigate due to intuitive software
- Lightweight, making them easier to transport and store
- They can be managed through a school mobile device management software, saving teachers valuable time
- Compatible with Microsoft Office 365, enabling our students to be skilled in both Microsoft and Apple software

The iPad as our 1:1 device was endorsed by the School Board in November 2022.

Parent Purchase Portal – Winthrop Australia

Mount Hawthorn PS has requested Winthrop Australia to offer an online purchase portal. Purchasing through the portal has the following benefits:

- It's quick and easy
- It provides parents with peace-of-mind that they're getting the right device and accessories
- It will arrive to school with the correct profile loaded so that school and home can manage it effectively
- It includes an education discount
- If a device bought through the portal becomes faulty you can take the device directly to Winthrop or bring it to the school office and Winthrop will send a courier to collect it.
- It provides options to purchase 2 years AppleCare+ (accidental damages) extended warranty and 2 years Protecsure insurance (lost or stolen)
- Winthrop have dedicated contact details for parents who have questions: sales.wa@winaust.com.au, or 08 6488 2777

To access the portal use: <https://sales.winaust.com.au/shop/mounthawthornps>

Device specifications

Students will be required to have the following:

- An iPad Wi-fi, with minimum 64GB storage (cellular is not required)
- 9th generation is preferred; however 7th and 8th generation are also suitable
- A physical keyboard
- A protective case

For 2023 we do not recommend the 10th generation model for the following reasons:

- Additional cost of device (approx. \$200 more expensive)
- No headphone jack
- 3rd party keyboards and cases are limited, and the Apple keyboard costs approx. \$300
- Stock may be harder to procure

To check what generation an existing device is, visit [identify your iPad model](#).

If your child will be using an already-owned iPad or you are buying from another supplier, please bring the device into the school on Wednesday 25 January or Friday 27 January to allow our technology staff to set it up ready for the first day of school.

Frequently asked questions

1. How does this align with education policy?

ICT and Digital Technologies are mandated learning areas in the Western Australian Curriculum from Pre-primary onwards. The Department of Education ICT Strategy states that: "To participate in a knowledge-based economy and to be empowered within a technologically sophisticated society now and into the future, students need the knowledge, skills and confidence to make ICT work for them at school, at home, at work and in their communities."

It is every student's entitlement to learn to use ICT to support their learning.

2. Why can't the school pay for the devices?

Unfortunately, government schools are not in a financial position to be able to fund 1:1 device programs. This is true of all schools, but especially pertinent in high ICSEA ones such as ours because we receive substantially less student characteristic funding compared to low ICSEA schools.

To enable our junior primary students to access the ICT capabilities in the Western Australian Curriculum, the school will continue to fund devices in junior primary at a ratio of 1 device to 3 or 4 students.

3. Which year levels will participate in the 1:1 iPad Program?

In Term 1, 2023, the 1:1 iPad program will commence with Year 5 students only.

4. Is the school considering expanding the 1:1 program in future years?

The vast majority of schools commence their 1:1 device program in Year 3 or 4, with some commencing even earlier. There is an argument that if parents are purchasing a device for their child, getting 3 years of school use from it makes more sense than getting only 2 years of use. Notwithstanding this, the school will evaluate the program during 2023 before making any decisions about expanding it to include another year level.

5. My child is in Year 6 in 2023. Do I need to buy an iPad for just one year?

No. Year 6 students will retain their current device from 2022.

6. Can my child bring a different device?

No. This was the biggest burden to our 2021-22 device program, where teachers were having to navigate settings and options on multiple devices. A single operating system is far easier for teachers

to manage in a 1:1 environment, allowing them to focus on learning rather than trouble shooting. We consulted many other primary schools and this view matches their overwhelming consensus.

A common device across the school enables teachers and students to build familiar procedures and terminology which can flow into all classrooms. This is particularly advantageous to organising professional learning for staff, thus allowing teachers to get the most out of their students when using technology. Finally, a common platform allows teachers to control the launch of specific apps, websites or specific texts on any iPad in the classroom, as well as greater in-class vigilance to ensure students are using technology appropriately.

7. We already have an iPad at home. Can my child bring it?

Yes, as long as it has the correct features and longevity. To ensure the device is suitable for the 1:1 iPad teaching and learning program, and to ensure it remains functional while your child takes part in it, the device must be 7th Generation or newer with at least 64GB of storage. The iPad would need to be factory reset so that the school can enrol it into our mobile device management (MDM) software. This allows us to 'push' school apps out to the device, ensuring it is ready for learning. You still own any existing apps on it and can install these on another device. Once your child leaves Mount Hawthorn PS, the device is taken off the school management system and you can reinstall your own apps.

8. How is the device kept secure?

Protection against damage, theft and/or loss requires a combination of human and physical environment factors to mitigate potential risks. We recommend buying one of the suggested cases on the purchase portal. We also recommend the AppleCare+ option which covers up to two repairs/replacements per year resulting from damage. At school, the device is kept in the classroom and students are taught to handle it safely, with two hands, when transporting it.

9. I'm worried that when my child gets home, they will use apps which are restricted at school like FaceTime, Tiktok or Snapchat.

Because the school is managing devices, we control which apps appear (even when your child is at home). This means that messaging and social media apps will not be on the device. Our aim is for this to be a learning device to support your child's education at school.

10. How much time will my child spend using the iPad at school each day?

One of the aims of the 1:1 program is for technology to be accessible in a 'frictionless' manner. This means that if a student needs it, it is available.

It is difficult to estimate daily 'screen time' as sometimes children are solely using a device for an activity, and at other times they are using it alongside traditional methods and glancing at it from time-to-time. This said, we envisage that on average less than a third of the school day will involve using technology in some form.

The debate around screen time has become more nuanced in recent years to focus on the *type* of screen time. For example, an hour spent developing critical thinking or implementing problem solving skills is beneficial to child development, whereas an hour spent gaming or watching funny videos is not. The approach when using the devices at school will always be, “hands on, brain on” rather than “hands on, brain off.”

11. My child will attend a secondary school that uses a Windows laptop. Will they be taught to navigate a PC and Office 365?

Navigating menus, saving and retrieving work from cloud and non-cloud drives and navigating websites are all part of the Western Australian Curriculum and these skills are currently taught using iPads. iPads also integrate well with Office 365, which we will continue to use at school. Additionally, Year 6 students have access to a bank of school-owned Windows devices to assist transition to high school.

12. Have you considered accessibility for all children such as visual/hearing impairments, special needs?

Yes. This was one of the areas in which the iPad scored highly in the device evaluation process. The iPad has a wide range of easily set accessibility options from contrasting colours, text to speech (and vice versa) and many more. Schools we consulted with told us students with special needs responded very positively to the support the iPad offered and were able to experience more success in their learning as a result.

13. I cannot afford to buy my child/children and iPad.

One of our school’s aims is equity for all students in this program. Payment plans are available to parents through the purchasing portal. If this is not suitable, please speak to us and we will work with you to ensure your child/children take full part in the 1:1 iPad program.

14. Will I be able to install my own apps?

The school has considered this point very carefully. The decision made is that the devices will be school managed. This is because:

1. School managed devices allow us to use the full functionality of the iPad. There are certain teaching and learning management apps that will not work on parent managed devices.
2. Many of the schools we visited in the research phase stated that parent managed devices can be problematic when apps are not installed, not updated or the wrong ones are installed. The added variable of having a non-standard ‘image’ results in more technical support time being needed and can get in the way of learning and teaching.
3. Parent feedback from previous cohorts showed that many parents were concerned with what apps their child might access when at home. As the cyber safety experts YSafe Australia say at their parent information sessions, “Start strict and ease off... Not the other way around.”

4. Parent feedback also raised shared concerns about screen time and extended use of devices at home. To support parents and to maintain the integrity of the program, it is important that children see the iPad as a learning device, not an entertainment device.
5. School managed devices are eligible for 200GB of iCloud storage for free, as opposed to the regular 5GB available to parent managed devices.

Because the school has decided to manage the devices, parents will not be able to install their own apps on the devices. If your child needs access to a particular app (for example, one recommended by a therapist/healthcare professional) please get in touch to discuss this.

The school will review how the iPads are managed at the end of Term 2 in 2023 to ensure it is fit for purpose.

15. What happens to the device when my child leaves the school?

As the device is parent-funded, the school management software is removed, and the device can continue to be used at home as you wish. You may also be able to trade it in through Winthrop Australia's parent portal for some credit towards another device for high school.

16. Can the iPad be used for NAPLAN Online?

Of course! This was one of the device selection criteria which we considered. Students will use their iPad for NAPLAN and other whole-school online assessments, such as PAT-Reading, PAT-Maths and PAT-Science.

Research by the University of New South Wales on NAPLAN readiness found that the most important factor for student success in NAPLAN Online is familiarity with the device, not the type of device.