

Parent Boot Camp 2016

Introduction

The iPad can be an incredible learning tool. Its light weight form factor, touch screen, long battery life, and ever-growing list of interactive apps and digital books make the iPad extremely functional and purposeful as a personal learning device. At St Joseph's we believe it is currently the best technology tool for engaging students in their learning, for providing access anytime/anywhere to student work, and for connecting them to the resources they need for research, project creation, and class presentations. It is also an ideal tool for communicating with teachers and their peers.

While all of these benefits are readily apparent to us as educators, we recognise the iPad may also present challenges. The 24/7 access to outside resources can be viewed positively or negatively. What ground rules can you establish at home to ensure the appropriate use of the iPad?

Establishing ground rules for technology use at home

Families will differ in the daily behavioural expectations for their children.

Technology use should be in line with your own family's already established ground rules.

Tips and strategies for technology use at home.

- Designate specific areas in the home for use of technology tools:

You may determine that homework and research must be done outside the bedroom, in a location visible to you. In this manner, an adult can monitor technology usage at any moment.

- Keep iPad charger plugged into the wall in a main room:

We require that students bring the iPad to school fully charged each day. By leaving the charger plugged in a common area of the house, this ensures the device is not only fully charged, but is left in plain sight at the end of the evening.

- Set time limits for iPad use:

You may decide that once homework is complete, there is a set amount of time to use the iPad for other purposes. You may even set a timer on the iPad or your own iDevice that alerts you and your child when time is up. Avoid screen time in the hour before going to sleep.

- Shut off Wi-Fi:

You can shut off Wi-Fi on the iPad itself, or even shut off Wi-Fi at the house altogether during certain hours of the day. This allows your child to continue to use the iPad for reading, writing or other activity that does not require internet access.

- Set restrictions on the iPad:

You can set restrictions on the iPad, such as shutting off access to Safari or YouTube, using a passcode. You can even choose to do this temporarily, such as in the evenings, then open things back up during the day. There is information on the [St Joseph's Technology](#) site to assist you to set up guided access or restrictions. Links to Apple Support are also included.

- Set volume limits while using headphones:

You can set volume limits by adjusting volume level in sounds and music. We recommend volume restricted, over the ear headphones.

- Create a Family Media Agreement:

You may wish to develop family a contract for appropriate use of technology and proper online behaviour. To help formulate your own family agreement, consider these [guiding questions from Edutopia](#). The [Think U Know](#) website offers contract templates that can be adapted to meet family needs.

Techniques for checking on-task behaviour

Our teachers will use these techniques in the classroom, but they are also relevant for the home:

- Flip the screen: If you want to see what your child is doing, ask them to flip the screen to you. It's a nice, simple way to check what they are working on. The screen will automatically orient correctly, unless they have chosen to lock orientation. Either way, you can see the screen. Tip: you can also tell when they click the home button in a panic to get out of what they are doing. ;-)
- Double-click on the home button to check the multi-task bar: Double-clicking the home button will reveal the most recent apps your child has been working. If they say they weren't watching YouTube videos, you can verify by checking the apps starting from the left.

Apps

At St Joseph's we have a core list of apps that teachers use. This [list](#) can be found on the St Joseph's technology site.

How do you make a decision about what else is available? Here are basic guidelines:

1. Educational Value: Does the app provide any value toward what your child does at school? Does it help for doing research, taking notes, finding images, video or other resources that might be put into a report or presentation?
2. Social Component: Simply because an app has a social component does not make it valueless. Each app must to be evaluated on its own, for educational benefit as well as factors such as privacy, and online safety. One thing to keep in mind is that most apps with a social networking component will require that the user be at least 13 years old, or have the consent of the parent for use.
3. Gaming: There are many gaming apps with educational value. When attempting to evaluate a game, have your child show you why it's not a waste of time, and what learning potential it has.
4. Creativity: This is where the iPad has so much potential. There are a growing number of apps that tap the creative potential in young learners, everything from drawing/painting apps, music creation and video editing, storytelling and creative writing, to simulations and virtual world building. We encourage you to explore apps that motivate your child to explore, experiment, and expand their knowledge and skills in all areas.
5. Common Sense Media - Do a search on the Common Sense Media web site to read reviews about an app. CSM also has an app for iPhone and iPad, called the [Kids Media App](#), to review all types of media for kids. Their [Parent Concerns](#) tab provides a number of resources to assist you, including great [advice](#) on how to choose apps.

What you need to know at St Joseph's

[BYODD Policy](#)

Expectations for Student Use of the iPad

Below are the expectations for student use of the iPad as per our agreement.

Be a Learner

- I will use the iPad as a learning tool only. I will be 'on task' and follow classroom rules.

Be Respectful

- I understand that excellence is being the best I can be, in everything I do, think and say. I understand this applies to my iPad. I will use positive online behaviours to uphold this image.
- I will ask permission before using any representation of another student, teacher, staff, community or parish member on my iPad. This includes photos, videos and voice recordings.

Be Responsible

- I will follow the 'Acceptable Use by Students of Technology Policy' set out by Catholic Education.
- I will be e-secure by protecting my passwords, not sharing personal information and storing work appropriately.
- I will be responsible for having an iTunes account and installing free Apps that the school recommends.
- I will bring a fully charged iPad to school every day. I recognise that iPads cannot be charged at school and I will be required to complete any missed work in my own time.
- I will report loss or damage of my iPad immediately to the teacher or my parents.

Be Safe

- I will move about the school in a safe and acceptable manner, with the iPad cover suitably protecting the iPad. It will not be left unattended or taken out of the classroom except with permission from the teacher.
- I will transport my iPad to and from school in the prescribed manner, leaving it in my school bag when in a public arena.
- I will report any behaviours that put myself or any other person in an unsafe online situation.

Digital Citizenship

At St Joseph's we promote the principles Engage, Know and Choose developed by the [Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner](#).

Cyber Safety

Students in Year 4 to 6 explore the [Cybersmart Detectives](#) program developed by the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner. Foundation to Year 3 explore [Hector's World](#).

Health and Safety

Movement:

- regular, adjust the body position every 15 minutes
- maintain the shape of your spine, natural curves

Eye health:

- blink and look away from the screen regularly, at least every 20 minutes
- your screen should be at eye level

Ear health:

- use volume restricted headphones, avoid high level volumes

Keeping an iPad safe:

- do not leave your iPad on the floor
- if walking, the screen must be covered and two hands on the device
- do not take it out of the case

Accessories

In addition to their iPad, students will need a case, stylus and a set of headphones/earbuds. You may also have a keyboard.

Workflow and Management

Our focus is to assist students to develop the digital skills. We refer to the Australian Curriculum ICT General Capability.

- Locate, generate, access, share and exchange information
- Manage data on different storage mediums

For further reading...

- [Common Sense Internet Safety for Middle School Age Kids](#)
- [Common Sense Internet Safety for Elementary School Age Kids](#)
- [Parent Media and Technology Education Program](#), from Common Sense Media
- [The amazing power of tech breaks](#), by Dr Larry Rosen