



Commonly asked questions related to the Robertson SS BYO iPad program

How much time will my child spend on the iPad at school and what kind of activities will they be doing?

There is no set amount of time that iPads are used in the classroom, it varies across the year levels, individual classes and students. This may be as little as 10-15 minutes or a couple of hours spread across the day. To meet the Australian Government Health Department recommended time limits for screen time (referred to below), teachers do not exceed 2 hours of iPad use a day.

Year level	Typical amount of time spent on devices in class daily	Typical activities done in class using iPads
Prep	30-45 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathletics • Book Creator – open-ended, creative and cross curriculum. One of the most popular iPad apps for teachers across the world. Students create books, usually around work they have been doing in class to display their understanding. Students can create books that can be shared with others. Teachers create books relevant to classwork and share with children to expand on. • Sunshine Online – reading app
Year 1-3	30-90 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy Planet • Mathletics • Book Creator • Sunshine Online • Books • Keynote – Presentation tool • Internet access via the browser to research topics • Adobe Acrobat – Read and annotate documents
Year 4-6	60-120mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in the upper grades use their iPad to access curriculum documents • Literacy Planet • Sunshine Online • Mathletics • Book Creator • iBooks • Pages – word processor • Keynote – Presentation tool • Internet access using the devices browser to research assignments • Access to google maps for use in geography, history, maths and science • Adobe Acrobat

Security

When connected to the school network, all internet access is filtered through the department's web filtering service. Students do not have access to YouTube or social media websites. All network traffic is monitored for access to

inappropriate sites and recorded. Departmental email accounts are filtered for inappropriate language and forwarded to the school's network administrator.

Instances of bullying or harassment through the department's email service are dealt with under the schools Responsible Behaviour Plan. Consequences for breaching this policy include timeout or detention, loss of access to device and/or internet and email, parent contact, in-school withdrawal and in some circumstances, suspension from school.

How are iPads used to support the curriculum?

All ICT devices used at Robertson State School complement the learning activities staff have designed using the school's curriculum based on the Australian Curriculum. All activities completed on iPads are educational in purpose and targeted at concepts being taught under the Australian Curriculum. There is no, one, right way to use technology in the classroom. iPads present a great opportunity for teachers and students to innovate within the classroom setting, opening up new opportunities for learning in ways that have not been possible previously. Teachers are currently receiving Professional Development in the use of iPads in the classroom and have at their disposal a number of teaching tools specifically designed for the modern 21st century classroom.

Over the past 12 months, students have used their devices to:

- Create movies, news reports and oral presentations using green screen technology.
- Take photos and annotate these to include in reports and stories.
- Draft, write, edit and publish writing assessments.
- Create dynamic iBooks using Book Creator with photos, audio and video recordings to demonstrate learning.
- Participate in reading development programs such as Reading Doctor and Fast ForWord.
- Engage with coding through the Hopscotch app, Scratch Jnr., Beebots, and Spheros.
- Program LEGO robots and drones.

What is the school doing about screen time?

According to the Australian Government's Department of Health website, the recommendation is to limit the use of electronic media for entertainment to 2 hours a day for children aged 5-12 years. This can be found in Australia's Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines for Children (5-12 years) which encourages children in this age range to have 60min of physical activity every day.

- All students are encouraged to use their lunch times to engage in physical activity.
- Students are not allowed to use their devices during school breaks or before or after school while in the school grounds.
- iPads at Robertson State School will only be used for educational purposes, not entertainment.
- Teachers are aware of these recommendations and adhere to them in the classroom.

I am concerned about my child straining their eyes?

Staff are aware of the risk of eyestrain and headaches that can be caused by the constant viewing of small objects on small screens, incorrect monitor position, or glare or reflection from lighting sources. All teachers work with students to reduce the risks by ensuring students:

- Work in environments free from glare or reflection.
- Have adequate lighting.
- Position the iPad screen for comfortable viewing distance.
- Increase font size for comfortable viewing.

- Take frequent rest breaks. (An old but valid idea is the 20/20 rules that states “every 20 minutes look at something about 6 metres away for 20 seconds”).
- Adjusting the screen brightness, colours and/or contrasts can also assist in reducing eyestrain.

How is the school dealing with Occupational Health and Safety issues?

Students are advised to consider the following advice when using their iPad. Staff are aware of this advice and will remind students of them.

- Taking regular rest breaks (at least every 20 minutes) and not using the iPad for more than 2 hours in any one day as per the guidelines.
- Using the iPad on a desk rather than on the lap whenever possible.
- Robertson SS has purchased iPad stands to help change the viewing angle to minimise the need to bend the neck.
- Using a chair that maintains good posture.
- Reducing the need to carry the iPad (where practicable).

Will my child learn to type?

A typing program, called Typing Tournament, is available for all year levels from Years 1-6. While the typing program can function using the iPad’s onscreen keyboard, the school’s recommendation is that students use a physical keyboard for this program. Students will receive a username and password, much like Athletics, and this can be accessed across a range of devices including iPads, laptops and desktop computers.

What about Prep classes?

Students in Prep will not be asked to bring an iPad until the start of second semester. This will give these students time to acclimatise to the schooling experience and familiarise themselves with school procedures and expectations. All other grades will bring their iPads from the start of the school year.

Support for families

Although the School Council are encouraging and advocating for all students to come to school with an iPad as a digital tool to assist with learning, it is noted that some parents may not be in a financial position to buy an iPad or may be philosophically opposed to having their children join the BYOD program. To accommodate these families, students will have shared access to school owned iPads when it is necessary for their learning which will not be able to be taken home.

How much homework should my child be doing on their iPad?

Homework can take the form of both digital and non-digital work. The amount of homework undertaken by students on their iPads will differ across the year levels. At the start of the year teachers will inform parents of their expectations and the amount and type of work needed to be done.

Will an older iPad be suitable for my child at school?

iPads need to be able to update to the latest version of the operating system (currently 13.1.2). Older iPads that cannot update to this iOS will still work, but there may be issues with some apps that do not support the older

systems. While they can bring older iPads, to benefit student learning experiences it is better to have an iPad that will be able to access all the apps properly.