

FAQ for parents

Financial Arrangements

1 How will I pay for my daughter's iPad?

We know that a number of pupils at The Queen's School already have an iPad. For those families who will need to provide an iPad for their daughter or daughters, the School is able to offer an Assisted Purchase Scheme (iAPS) through which parents can purchase an iPad via the School and pay for the device in 18 monthly direct debit instalments (or alternatively in one up-front payment) without incurring any interest charges.

2 How long will the iPads last?

It is anticipated that iPads, will have a minimum product life-span of 3 years.

3 What happens if it gets lost or damaged?

The School will offer insurance for iPads purchased through iAPS, with premiums payable in equal instalments over 18 months (or by 1 up-front payment). Alternatively, the devices can be covered under home contents insurance policies.

4 Are you offering technical support?

The Queen's School will provide advice to both pupils and parents on installation of apps and upgrading of operating systems. In addition, IT staff will monitor and optimise the school network in order to assist with the reliability and performance of students' iPads.

5 How do I know which apps to buy and who pays for these?

Parents can choose to purchase the iPad via the School or through their own choice of retailer. In both circumstances your daughter will be able to install apps from a "school app store" onto her iPad. There will be no charge, the School will meet the cost. Pupils will be directed which apps to install for the courses that they follow.

6 Does my daughter need an Apple ID account?

Apple's recommendation is that each family member should have their own Apple ID. For School use, please ensure that your daughter has her own Apple ID (and knows its username and password) before September. If your daughter is under 13, Apple's rules state that the ID should be in the name of the parent. In 2014, Apple introduced a new method for families to manage their Apple IDs and in turn the products they purchase, called Family Sharing. Family Sharing allows a parent to create Apple IDs for their children aged under 13 in the child's name, approve app installations, and provide a single means of payment. Family Sharing is compatible with school systems and therefore gives another option for parents when creating an Apple ID for their daughter. Full information about how to set up Family Sharing is available

from <http://tinyurl.com/mkfuymw>

7 Who owns the iPads if purchased through The Queen's School scheme?

The iPads are your property*. (*Does not apply to 100% Bursary students or certain other Bursary students – see below.)

8 What are the arrangements for those students receiving Bursaries?

If your daughter is in receipt of a 100% Bursary, and you do not wish to purchase an iPad for your daughter, then the School will provide an iPad for your daughter to use, which will remain the

property of the School. If your daughter is in receipt of a partial bursary, you may opt into the iAPS on the same basis as those families not in receipt of financial assistance and pay the full amount. If you choose not to, you will be asked to make a contribution to the scheme equivalent to the percentage of bursary funding you receive. If your bursary is revised during the two-year period, your contribution to the scheme will also be revised.

At the end of the three-year product lifespan, you may choose to pay the remaining balance owed in order to keep the iPad or you may return the iPad to the School and we will accept the money that you have paid towards the iPad as a contribution towards our Queen's School Bursary Fund.

Infrastructure

9 Will The Queen's School's IT infrastructure be able to cope?

Yes. We have invested in the highest specification of WiFi that already provides fast connectivity for over 500 iPads every school day. Our IT Director, IT Manager and IT Technician are familiar with Apple systems and capable of solving any potential issues that may arise.

10 How will we manage the deployment of apps on these devices?

The school provides all apps used for school work at no cost to parents. Pupils install apps themselves from the Queen's App Store by using a special icon on their iPad, and inputting their Apple ID username and password.

11 How difficult is it to login to the school network on the iPad?

Students login in a similar way to when using a PC, with the same password. Each iPad is protected with an access code to protect the School Network from unauthorised access should an iPad be lost or stolen. Girls are required not to share their passwords or access codes with each other.

12 Where will pupils' work be stored?

Pupils have a MyWork area on the school network, which can be accessed at home as well as at school. Many of the apps provided by the school allow work to be handed in to teachers and to be saved to a pupil's MyWork area.

13 What happens to a pupil's iPad if it is lost or broken?

All students are encouraged to save their work to their MyWork area and not to the individual iPad, in order to guard against data loss. School IT staff ensure that the student's access to My Work is restored. Insurance should cover the cost of replacement of the iPad if the device is insured. The school will endeavour to provide a temporary replacement from a small pool of reserve iPads.

14 How will students print from iPads?

Whilst there is still the need to print certain documents, it is possible for students to submit work to their teachers electronically. We hope therefore to be able to reduce the amount of printing and the amount of paper that is used.

Girls are able to logon to their MyWork area on the PCs/Macs in school to access their work if there is something that needs to be printed.

15 What happens if a student does not have Internet access at home?

We understand that not everyone can access the Internet at home. Although some of the educational features of the iPad will be lost, for example access to the Virtual Learning Environment and School Network, the iPad can still be used effectively. The student can save files to work on offline, create documents, work on most apps that are installed on the iPad and read or work from downloaded material without being connected to the Internet.

Safety / Safeguarding

16 Can I restrict the Internet sites that my daughter is accessing at home?

The Queen's School has filtered Internet access. The students are all informed about the responsible use of the Internet and receive additional guidance in PSHE lessons and Computing lessons in years 7 to 9. You may want to consider setting similar filtering on your own home internet connection, in order to help to protect your daughter when she uses her iPad, or another device, at home. Methods of setting up such filtering, plus further information about filtering mobile phone and other internet access available outside the home, are available from "The UK Safer Internet Centre" <http://tinyurl.com/d6z6y74>

17 Will my daughter be at risk if she is carrying an iPad to and from School?

We take this concern seriously and our advice to students is to hand the device over if they are challenged. It is recommended that the device is security marked and the school will offer to do this for all iPads. The iPad can be replaced through insurance.** Any such issues will be reported to the police. A large number of students currently carry expensive Smartphones to school and we have not seen any such incidents connected to telephone ownership. [** If the device is insured].

18 Will my daughter be staring at a screen all day?

No. The use of the iPad will be one of ways in which your daughter learns. Teachers will receive guidance on effective short term use of the iPad.

Training and Support

19 How are we going to ensure that the iPads are not a 'gimmick' but an integral part of the education at Queen's?

Educational research has shown that, in order for all pupils to gain the best advantage from using their own devices, the teachers have to lead the way in the use of these devices. Accordingly, all teachers have been using iPads since April 2013. They have been trained in the general use of the device as well as having undertaken subject-specific research into the application of the iPad to their particular subject area.

Each academic department has reviewed their curricula, prepared resources and now delivers new lessons which take advantage of the iPad's strengths.

The work that has been completed over the last 10 years to develop our Virtual Learning Environment, our WiFi network, and our remote access from home, has paved the way for the meaningful use of these devices as part of an integral learning experience.

Our IT Support team is well trained, enthusiastic and committed to iPad use. We take pride in the simple fact that our IT facilities work.

Other questions:

20 How often are the iPads be used in lessons?

The iPad is used across Departments where appropriate, according to Departmental planning. As an example, an iPad rich lesson may consist of a 'starter' activity for five minutes, ten minutes of independent research, and taking a photograph of completed work to be assessed by the teacher or another pupil. iPads will not be used in every lesson.

21 Is it possible to write essays on the iPad?

Yes. The Pages app enables students to write documents as easily as in Word. This document was written using Pages.

22 How will the iPad affect the quality of pupils' handwriting?

Examinations are still handwritten and students will still be expected to write answers under timed conditions as part of their preparation for external examinations. Certain apps, such as Notability, enable the student to annotate pdf files or make notes by hand rather than type.

23 How will the iPad help to support my daughter who has Special Educational Needs?

We know from the experience of current pupils that girls with dyslexia or associated conditions can benefit significantly from using iPads. Students can download audio books to aid their studies in English Literature, the spell-checking feature on Pages will aid writing, dictation Apps can help note-taking. The colour and size of text can be adjusted. The feedback from pupils with SEN who have been using this device is that their self-confidence is improved and their motivation

increased.

24 How will my daughter keep her iPad secure at School?

We offer to security mark every iPad to be used at school. School IT staff maintain a log of iPads as they are connected to the school wifi network. The log will record the pupil's name and a unique ID from each iPad. The log would be used to determine the owner of the device if the iPad was lost.

The iPads the school buys for the assisted purchase scheme (iAPS) will come through a wholesaler and cannot be engraved by Apple. If a parent makes an individual purchase direct from Apple then it is also possible to ask for the iPad to be engraved.

Every student at The Queen's School y has access to a lockable school locker and girls are instructed to lock away their iPad if they cannot keep it with them at any point during the school day. It should be noted that students' telephones rarely go missing at school. When the girls value a piece of equipment, they do look after it.

25 What if a student uses the iPad to photograph each other without permission, or plays games during lessons?

The inappropriate use of iPads is already addressed in our Acceptable Use of ICT Policy. The teacher is in charge of the lesson, and will set challenging and engaging work to keep the students focused in class. If a student misbehaves, our current disciplinary systems will deal with the situation.

26 What if I do not wish to participate in this scheme?

We would encourage all families with girls in years 7 to 13 to take part in this scheme. If a family chooses not to participate, your daughter will not be able to benefit from the advantages of using the device.

27 My daughter owns a different type of tablet - can she use that?

Other types of tablet will only be able to access the Internet and the VLE in school. They will not have access to the MyWork area and may not be able to access some of the educational resources available through the apps. Therefore, pupils who do not have an iPad may find their learning curtailed and may have difficulties submitting work electronically.