

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

iPads in Education - Myths

Myth 1 - “iPads in class will distract from the work done by teachers as students will just be playing on their iPads!”

The modern world has produced technology that allows young learners tools and services that allow them to drive their own learning to a far greater extent than prior generations. The respective roles for adults (parents and teachers) involved in educating young learners requires consideration about how to properly foster habits and expectations in students to seek deeper learning by discovering, experimenting, collaborating and reflecting. One solution would be creation of a “walled garden” in which students are removed from the reality that modern technology offers. We don’t believe that is a positive solution. Instead we see the benefit of including these devices in a student’s education as fostering the development of life-long learning by students who learn to act responsibly by claiming ownership of their learning.

Myth 2 - “Student interaction will decrease; they will rarely communicate effectively with each other.”

Our observations during the first year of iPads being used as learning tools in classes indicate the opposite is usually the case. Students working in groups on iPads have shown significant ability to work collaboratively and are very happy to communicate the work with each other. In many cases they teach one another thinking processes very successfully. Even when students have been using their own devices they have been more than happy to help other students with the required work and student interactions have not generally been seen to have decreased. Students also have been very willing to share the outcomes of their work with their classes including by using their devices to support that sharing.

Myth 3 - “The iPad is only a consumption device.”

While adults tend to be happy to just consume content delivered to them, including via a device such as an iPad, students tend to get bored with just content delivery. Making the focus of using iPads at Craigslea the use of the device as a tool to augment their education through:

- apps such as Book Creator, ExplainEverything, OneNote and NearPod;
- textbooks that allow students to make their own annotations in the textbook; and
- access to an increasing library of our own curriculum resources via The Learning Place and Class Notebooks

allows students to express what they have understood from their teacher, their own research or each other in multiple ways. These ways could be text entry, photographing their bookwork summaries, creating video summaries of their lessons or incorporating text, pictures, photos, videos and web-based resources to their own interactive book.

iPads in Education - Myths (Continued)

Myth 4 - "There is no USB connection on an iPad: I can't import files or save / print my work!"

Students on all devices, including iPads have access to the Education Queensland OneDrive online storage system. The system provides 5Tb of storage for all students. It is also possible to set up the system so that selected files are synchronised with the student's device(s) and so stored both offline on the device and online in the storage system. By signing into that same online space on a different device it is possible to access the material from any internet connected device. This has largely done away with the need to store materials on USBs for storage or transfer purposes.

Additionally, classes are increasingly making use of Class Notebook spaces. Very much like the OneDrive system, the Class Notebook spaces allow a student to access class note, worksheets, assessments and their own notes on any device that is connected to the internet while also keeping a synchronized copy of the work on their own device.

Printing from iPads is also able to be done at school through a simple installation on the iPad which then allows it to print to the library printer.

Myth #5 - "iPads cannot play Flash!"

The number of resources that require Flash to operate are rapidly dwindling. These days the vast majority of websites and online tools have adapted to suit the iPad. Even Adobe - the creator of Flash - has stopped developing Flash, opting to focus on HTML5 (iPad compatible instead).