“Learn to Love and Love to Learn”

At St Bernadette’s Catholic Primary School, the values lived by Jesus Christ are the foundation for everything we do.

Dear Parents,

St Bernadette’s School is committed to the ideals and benefits of 21st Century learning for all students. We strive to provide students with the best opportunities to succeed in a world that is rapidly changing; a world that no longer only includes local communities, but global environments.

One of the key roles of Catholic schools is to assist parents in the education of their children and especially in their development as young men and women ready to make positive contributions to society. (MANDATE, Catholic Education Commission of WA 2009-2016)

At St Bernadette’s School, we SEARCH for ways to provide the best educational opportunities and resources for our students. Our decision-making processes keep our students at the forefront as we strive to meet the new demands of 21st century education, enhancing our vision whilst being guided by Gospel teachings.

In accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church, communication must reflect the highest standard of accountability and sensitivity to the dignity of the human person. Catholic education is centred on the mission of the Catholic Church and ICT is ‘the servant of the Church’s mission to spread the news of Jesus Christ and offer services in his name. (The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, 2007, p. 2).

Each member of the St Bernadette’s Catholic School community strives to give witness through words, attitudes and actions.

21st century education integrates technologies, engaging students in ways not previously possible, creating new learning and teaching possibilities, enhancing achievement and extending interactions with local and global communities.

At St Bernadette’s School, our learning environments are challenging and contemporary, taught by teachers instructed in the ethical use of technologies, enhancing the learning outcomes for students.
At St Bernadette’s, we believe the development of appropriate skills and attitudes towards digital technology will allow students to meet the challenges of learning in a digital age and will provide them with the opportunity to develop their digital citizenship in a responsible and Christ-like manner, demonstrating respect for self and others.

**St Bernadette’s is a community of hope.**

**We believe in the future of our children.**

Our 1:1 iPad journey began in 2016 with Year 4’s required to purchase an iPad for school use.

The perceived benefits for the students include:

- Greater engagement and increased motivation to learn
- Internet access will be readily available from any classroom in the School.
- The iPad is a small lightweight device and therefore, easy to carry and to use at the students’ desks.
- The iPad is a tool that allows for greater personalisation and organisation of learning tasks.
- The use of the iPad as a collaboration tool in the classroom.

Over the past few years, we have been working collaboratively with the Catholic Education Office, other Catholic Primary Schools and Colleges exploring the use of iPads in the classroom and how they positively impact on teaching and learning. We have conducted two trials. One in Year 4 in 2014, and one in Year 6 in 2015. We are excited by this opportunity to enrich the learning of children at St Bernadette’s School. We have put together this FAQ information brochure to assist parents who have children entering Year 4 in 2018.

We hope that this FAQ will answer many of the questions that may arise in relation to the program.

Steve Gibbs  
Principal
Frequently Asked Questions

SECTION A – THE COSTS INVOLVED

1. Why do parents have to fund this?

The school simply does not have the financial resources to fund iPads for every Year 4, 5 and 6 student. The only way it could be funded would be to increase school fees by a corresponding amount, which is the same effect as parents acquiring the iPads directly.

2. What is the full cost to me as a parent and what are my funding options?

The One to One iPad program will utilise the Apple iPad. **The minimum requirement for the program is an Apple iPad (not mini).** The children require a wifi only model that can be updated with the latest iOS software. As storage does become an issue we recommend the 128gb model rather than the 32gb model. A1822 (Wi-Fi) is the recommended model for 2017. **The iPad mini and the cellular model is not approved for the St Bernadette’s One to One iPad Program at any year level. If a cellular model is purchased, due to possible breaches of internet security, the 3G/4G sim will need to be removed from the device before entering the school.**

To protect the iPad from accidental damage, it is also recommended that a sturdy cover that securely protects the corners and the screen of the iPad is also purchased. A keyboard case is recommended.

It is envisaged that the cost to parents for the required iPad package will be around $700 - $800, which excludes insurance costs. The current market and particular specifications adopted by the school (eg. required apps) will determine final prices, but are expected to be close to this price.

3. Am I eligible for the tax concessions associated with the computers? How do I determine my eligibility and how do I claim?

For further information in respect of Family Tax Assistance please contact the appropriate government department. This link may provide initial advice:

4. What happens if my son/daughter already has an iPad?

Great. If your child already has an iPad at home and it meets the minimum Requirements we recommend they use it.

5. What if I simply can’t afford to buy an iPad for my child?

Finance options are usually available at the point of purchase. Please see the Principal in cases of genuine financial hardship to discuss your particular circumstances and alternative options.

6. Do the iPads come with a warranty? Will the iPads be insured or do I need to arrange this myself?


However, this warranty does not cover accidental damage, loss or theft. It is highly recommended that parents fully insure their child’s iPad. This may be done through your own personal Home & Contents policy. Please contact your insurance company for more information. Alternatively insurance options are offered at the point of purchase.

7. Isn’t it inevitable that an iPad will be knocked, dropped or broken?

Accidents may happen and this is the reason all iPads should be insured and an appropriate cover be purchased to protect them from any bumps and knocks.

8. Will parents be required to pay for Apps?

Yes. Students will be required to download specific apps according to the requirements of their year level. Please refer to the school website for the list of apps related to your child’s year level.
SECTION B – TEACHING AND LEARNING

9. Why does the program start at Year 4 - aren’t the children just too young at this age and aren’t the basics of reading, writing, maths and handwriting more important at this stage?

Year 4 students are typically 9 and 10 years of age and this is certainly not too young to learn how to use technology and to learn about being responsible users and citizens.

As a matter of fact, the teaching of computer skills and digital citizenship has been a part of the respective Technology and Health learning areas for many years and across all year levels, so St Bernadette’s School is not incorporating a “new aspect” to the curriculum nor is it giving students access to technology for the first time.

Students will still be taught and learn the content in the curriculum - the basic curriculum does not change. It is envisaged however, that iPads will complement all learning areas.

The point of difference in our current education model is the implementation of the West Australian Curriculum by which the use of ICT is embedded in all learning areas and through the General Capabilities. This does not mean that all aspects of Literacy and Numeracy hold less weight in the curriculum, but rather, are given greater emphasis as Numeracy and Literacy are not only taught as a separate learning area, but like ICT are also embedded throughout the curriculum and the General Capabilities.

10. Will the iPads improve the skills of my child?

The iPad is a very effective tool to assist in education - much like a book or a calculator, which do not in and by themselves improve skills, but are important tools and resources that assist and enhance the education process.

The benefits of a One to One iPad program should be considered more in respect of the capacity to engage student attention, to encourage student motivation, to enable student access to information, to develop skills including problem solving and collaborative learning, as well as to enable a greater range of opportunities for students to construct and express their knowledge and skills in relevant and meaningful ways.

Such benefits form the foundation and focus for an effective iPad program, which will certainly aim to enhance the development of students’ higher order thinking skills. Formal assessments will still be determined by each student’s ability and readiness to address the requirements of the assessment tasks they encounter in the curriculum. The iPad is primarily about giving students greater access to knowledge and developing skills that are perhaps more in keeping with what is required for a 21st century learner.

In our West Australian context, the Department of Education and Training has provided further explanation and examples.
11. How much time will students use the iPads in the classrooms?

It is envisaged that the students will use their iPads around 30% of class
time. The iPads will be integrated into the curriculum to support and enhance
our current educational programs.

12. Will my child be required to do homework on their iPads?

It is envisaged that students will continue to be provided with a diverse range
of homework, some of which, but certainly not all, can be completed on their
iPads. Parents do need to monitor this as generally homework that may need
to be completed on the iPad should not exceed the daily homework limit for
your child’s year level.

13. My child can’t even look after their lunchbox—how are they expected to look after an expensive piece of equipment?

One of the many positive aspects of the One to One iPad program is that it
instills responsibility in our children and they learn to value property and take
responsibility for their belongings. We have every confidence that, in
partnership with parents, the children will be taught and learn very quickly
the importance of being responsible for their iPad and they will take great
pride in their ability to be responsible with it.

14. What professional development will be given to teachers?

All teaching staff have already had opportunities for professional development
in the IT area and will be given ongoing professional development specific to
iPad technology through the school’s IT co-ordinator, Dynamics ICT, Catholic
Education Office, Apple Store.

All teachers have their own iPad to assist them in developing curriculum
and in teaching the students.
SECTION C – THE TECHNOLOGY

15. Why is it important that everyone has the same device? Can I buy my child a Samsung Galaxy Tablet or Motorola Xoom?

St Bernadette’s is using Apple products and other devices will not be supported. Technology and software needs to be consistent between all the students and the teacher. This ensures that no students are disadvantaged because their computers cannot support the required technology and Apps. It also ensures the program is run as efficiently as possible and unique or specific issues or problems cannot detrimentally affect the program for the rest of the class.

16. Why is the program based on Mac technology?

The creative potential with the Mac app software, the general robustness and the reliability of Mac platforms are all factors, which the school believes make Mac based technology the best choice for our students.

In addition, Apple offers a comprehensive education support program for teachers.

Providing exposure to Mac technology also ensures the students have exposure to the widest possible types of technology, which will benefit their use and understanding of technology in later years.

17. How does Mac technology work with Microsoft based programs?

A number of Microsoft applications are compatible with the Mac technology.

The key is that the students and teachers will all be using the same technology and platform. In addition, the use of Mac technology provides students with diverse learning opportunities as they can learn both Mac and a number of Microsoft compatible applications on the iPad rather than only learning one technology. With the implementation of Office 365 the ‘clouded’ content can be accessed from any platform or device.

18. What is the technology plan for the school and how does the program fit in with those plans?

The school continues to develop a comprehensive plan for improving technology throughout the school for the benefit of all students over the next 3 years. The One to One iPad Program plays an important part in the school’s strategic plan for information technology but is not the single solution - a comprehensive plan that incorporates the needs of all students - from kindergarten onwards - will ensure the school ultimately has a comprehensive, coordinated and integrated technology plan for all students during their primary school years.
19. What is happening in high schools - will this program integrate with future high school requirements?

There is no standard approach at the moment and each high school is making its own decisions with respect to the use of technology. Currently, many high schools have been implementing Apple platform technologies.

20. How long will we have the device for?

It is expected that the life of an iPad will last the duration of their upper primary schooling.

21. Can you print from the iPad?

Yes, St Bernadette’s has purchased Apple supported AirPrint printers which are located in the Year 4 to 6 classrooms and library. Students can print from home if their printer is configured to support the iPad.


22. How do you save work created on an iPad?

iPads do not have a hard drive or USB input to save and access work. iPads are designed to work with ‘Cloud’ technology. Cloud technology is an online storage facility that allows access to files, documents, photos and music anytime, anywhere, as long as you have access to the internet. Cloud technology is developing at a rapid rate. The school has implemented Microsoft Office 365 which uses ‘cloud’ technology to save the children’s work.

23. Will my child still need a computer at home?

This is your choice. Most households have an existing PC or laptop. A computer is not a requirement of the One to One iPad program. Presently, an iPad cannot completely replace a computer. Whilst iPad Apps and its hardware and operating system is being developed at a rapid rate, an iPad cannot complete the more demanding tasks that a high end desktop computer can do.

24. How do you set up the iPads to use the internet at home?

The iPads utilise wireless technology so the internet can be accessed via wi-fi technology.

At home, parents will need to have an internet connection, preferably with wi-fi capabilities.
25. Is the school properly equipped to support the program (servers, wireless technology, etc)?

Yes - the school has recently upgraded its IT infrastructure with a high-speed wireless solution. This will adequately support the One to One iPad program implementation and the iPad class sets in Junior Primary.

The school has prepared and is equipped for the One to One iPad program. As with any technology, it is inevitable that issues may arise. Nonetheless, the school believes it is well positioned to overcome any practical issues without detrimentally affecting the program. ICT services will continue to support and maintain our ICT infrastructure and agencies such as Dynamics ICT, Apple and the Catholic Education office ICT Department will be our main consultants.

26. How will backups occur and who will have the responsibility for this?

You can use iCloud or iTunes to backup and restore your content on the iPad. Read the information to decide which is your preferred method of backing up your child’s iPad.

**Choosing an iOS Backup Method**

Backed-up information includes purchased music, TV shows, apps, and books; photos and video in the Camera Roll; device settings (for example, Phone Favourites, Wallpaper, and Mail, Contacts, Calendar accounts); app data; Home screen and app organisation; Messages (iMessage, SMS, and MMS), ringtones, and more.

**Back up and restore your iOS device with iCloud or iTunes**

27. What is the battery life of the iPads and what happens if my child’s iPad is not fully charged each day?

The iPad battery life is sufficient to last for up to approximately 10 hours. Students will need to ensure that their iPad is charged in readiness for the day.
SECTION D– POLICY & PROCEDURES

28. I am concerned about my child using the internet and having access to it - what policies and procedures will be utilised to ensure only appropriate internet access is allowed?

As part of the program, the school has comprehensive policies and procedures dealing with internet use. Internet access will be strictly supervised at all times.

At school, there is protection provided by the school’s filters on its server that restricts access to inappropriate sites and materials. As strong as the filters are, unfortunately they are not fool proof.

Microsoft Office 365, a cloud based learning management system implemented at St Bernadette’s, requires the children to accept Microsoft’s Terms and Conditions during the setup stage. The students are guided through each stage of the setup; and the terms and conditions are discussed thoroughly ensuring the students are aware of appropriate internet and iPad use.

When using the iPad at home, it is the responsibility of the parent to monitor acceptable usage and internet access. Parental controls are available on the iPad under Settings -> General -> Restrictions. (Remember to write down this Restriction passcode and store it in a secure place.)

The school takes no responsibility for inappropriate usage and internet access outside school hours. Below is a link to Apple Parental Controls or Restrictions that are available on the iPad.

http://support.apple.com/kb/HT4213

29. Is there an agreement I need to sign before my child is allowed to use his/her iPad?

Yes. The standard **Policy on Acceptable Internet Use** and the **iPad Code of Conduct and Agreement Policy** will need to be read and discussed thoroughly with your child. This agreement needs to be signed by both yourself and your child and returned at the commencement of the school year (2016). Parents must revisit this agreement with their child/ren as the need arises and in addition, maintain a constant and open dialogue throughout the year.

The student’s classroom teacher will also discuss the **Policy on Acceptable Internet Use** and the **iPad Code of Conduct and Agreement Policy** with the students at the beginning of the school year and subsequently as the need arises.
30. Will students be able to use Facetime on the iPad?
No, this function is to be disabled in Restrictions. Students use their St Bernadette’s email when collaborating and communicating with each other and teachers.

31. Will students be able to use Facebook on the iPad?
No, this function is to be disabled in Restrictions. Students will not be able to access Facebook at school. Facebook accounts are illegal for persons under the age of 13.

32. Could my child have their iPad taken from them?
Yes. The School reserves the right to remove this privilege. The iPad will be removed if your child is in breach of our Policy on Acceptable Internet Use and the iPad Code of Conduct and Agreement Policy.

33. What happens if my child’s iPad is damaged by another student?
The iPad Code of Conduct and Agreement Policy strictly states that iPads are not to be loaned to other students and must be kept in a safe place at all times. However, in the instance where an iPad is accidently or maliciously damaged by another student, the incident should be reported immediately to your child’s teacher. Your teacher will then follow strict protocols that will involve consultation with the school Leadership Team to find a satisfactory solution. It is strongly recommended that parents do not contact other parents or students directly regarding the damaged article.

34. What happens if the iPad just stops working?
Any issues with the technical operations of the iPad need to be brought to the attention of the teacher and parents as soon as possible. Parents will need to make plans to have the device fixed or replaced as soon as possible.

35. Can my child use their iPad if the screen is damaged?
No, as the tiny shards of glass and the harmful chemicals that could seep out, may cause injury to your child. If this has occurred, for the safety of your child and so the teaching program and your child’s learning is not compromised, please attend to the damaged screen immediately.

36. What happens if my child does not have an iPad for longer than a day?
In the event that your child’s iPad is undergoing repairs, with the approval of the principal, the school will source an iPad for a short period of time. For a period beyond reasonable without an iPad and for reasons other than mentioned, this will need to be discussed with the principal as costs may be incurred.
37. Why does my child have to bring the iPad home - wouldn’t it be easier and safer to keep them at school?

The students are required to take their iPads home each night for a number of reasons, including taking personal responsibility of their device, security and insurance. Also, the fact that it is most practical for children to recharge their iPads each night at home and that they can gain full use of the iPad by having access to it at home.

38. Will students need an Apple ID and iTunes account?

Yes. All students will be required to have an Apple ID and iTunes account. Apple’s Terms and Conditions state that the users must be 13 years of age or older to have a personal Apple ID. This means that prior to 13 years of age, the Apple ID associated with the child’s iPad is the parent’s/guardian’s Apple ID for that device, and not the student’s. Consequently, we ask that parents/guardians of children under the age of 13 to create and manage their child’s Apple ID. Parents/guardians can monitor the purchasing of content from the iTunes Store so when anything is purchased from the store an itemised receipt will be sent to your nominated email address. Parents can decide to continue to manage their child’s Apple ID once he/she turns 13 years of age.

We advise parents to create an email account that the students will have when they have completed study or to take with them when they change schools. Consider the account set up details, as this potentially will follow through with your child during high school and beyond; and the apps that were purchased will remain with the associated Apple ID.

39. Can I use Family Sharing with my child’s iPad?

As part of the iOS8 update, Apple has incorporated a new feature called Family Sharing.

Family Sharing makes it easy for up to six people in your family to share each other’s iTunes, iBooks and App Store purchases without sharing accounts. Pay for family purchases with the same credit card and approve kids’ spending straight from a parent’s device. And share photos, a family calendar and more to help keep everyone connected.

(http://www.apple.com/ios/whats-new/family-sharing/)

Read through the information on iCloud Family Sharing to help you decide if this method of setting up and purchasing apps is suitable for your family.
40. Will parents need to have a credit card to register for an iTunes account?

No. Parents can set up an iTunes account without the need of a credit card. A $50 iTunes voucher will be on next year's booklist for Year 4. This redeemable voucher will replace the need for credit card details. Parents may be required to top up the account if all the credit is used.

Family Sharing may require the use of a credit card.
SECTION E – GENERAL ISSUES

41. Will students be able to put their music on the device?
Yes. Students are able to place their purchased music on the device allocated to them.

42. Are students allowed to install games?
Yes. The device can be personalised by students, but priority should be given to educational Apps recommended by the school.

Any loaded software applications or Apps which are not on the school’s specified app list are to be restricted to home use. Keeping in mind, that as the sole purpose of the iPad’s use at St Bernadette’s is for educational pursuits, loading excessive amounts of software and apps will impact the performance of the iPads generally. In so much, that iCloud and storage capacities may become limited or exceeded.

43. What if the storage on my child’s iPad is full?
This generally occurs if the iPad has too many apps on it and/or apps are updated. With this comes the fact that the updated apps are generally larger in size, hence, use more storage space. In particular, this can quickly impact the performance of the iPad for school use. If the iPad’s performance or storage is affected, personal apps will need to be deleted immediately. However, it is worth noting, that deleted apps are never permanently deleted; they are simply removed from the iPad and just as easily, can be reloaded.

44. Will the device add extra weight to their school bags?
The device weighs 652 grams and will add minimal weight to students’ school bags.

45. What if my child forgets to bring their iPad to school on a day?
If there is an alternate iPad available, they may be able to borrow it for the day. It is really no different to if a child forgets their maths book on the day of maths.

It is felt that the children will quickly adapt to accepting responsibility of their iPad and it should become as second nature to them as bringing their school bag to school each day!
46. As a parent I don’t know much about computers - will there be any support for parents if the iPads are to be used at home?

Documentation assisting with the setup of the iPad will be available on the school website and further information on the Apple website: https://manuals.info.apple.com/MANUALS/1000/MA1595/en_US/ipad_user_guide.pdf
or emailing admin@stbernadettes.wa.edu.au with your query and if required, further assistance can be arranged.

The school also offers a setup session at the beginning of the school year prior to children returning to school.

Children will be taught all necessary skills such that the need for parent involvement should be minimal - children learn quickly and will soon be in a position to assist you in your own learning!

If you have any other questions, queries or concerns, please contact the principal. Also, look out for updates in the school newsletter or website.