

Digital Technology Update

Proposal to move from BYOD iPad to a Chromebook leasing model

Bring Your Own Device Program (BYOD)

In 2016, Mount Pleasant Road Primary School introduced a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) iPad model for students in Grades 3–6.

This initiative aimed to provide all students with one-to-one access to digital technology, supporting the development of **confident, creative, and innovative digital learners**. The model complemented the delivery of the Digital Technologies curriculum and empowered teachers to meet the diverse needs of their students through inclusive, accessible, and enriching tools. It also supported the focused development of essential digital skills.

Digital Technology Review

In 2024, a comprehensive review of digital technology use at our school—specifically iPads—prompted a revision of our Acceptable Use Agreement. This resulted in clearer guidelines for students and a more consistent approach among staff regarding the use of iPads as learning tools.

While the BYOD model has offered significant benefits and was well-suited to its time, several challenges have emerged that now limit its overall effectiveness. A parent survey conducted in 2024 received 66 responses, with:

- 50% of parents finding the iPad program very to somewhat useful
- 33% finding it not useful
- 78% of families expressing concerns about excessive screen time at home.

Staff feedback echoed this sentiment, with 75% reporting that student distraction—particularly from non-educational apps and games—was a persistent issue.

Chromebook Proposal

In response to these concerns, this proposal outlines a plan to transition from the current BYOD iPad model to a school-managed Chromebook leasing model. The revised model will maintain one-to-one

access but place device management under school control. Chromebooks will remain at school, giving families greater autonomy over screen use at home.

The transition will begin in 2026 with Grade 3 students. Students in Grades 4–6 will continue using iPads under the existing BYOD model during that year. The phased rollout will see the BYOD iPad program fully retired over the following four years.

Proposed Timeline

Year	Grade 3	Grades 4-6
2026	Chromebooks introduced	Continue with BYOD iPads
2027	Chromebooks	Mixed use (4-6)
2028	Chromebooks	Phase out continues
2029	Chromebooks	Full implementation (3-6)

Rationale for Change

Education Purpose

Current Challenge:

In the classroom, iPads are primarily used for tasks such as researching, accessing web-based resources, and navigating Google Classroom. However, these activities can be more challenging on an iPad—especially when students do not have an external keyboard. The lack of a physical keyboard can hinder typing efficiency, multitasking, and overall ease of use, particularly during extended learning tasks

Proposed Solution:

Chromebooks are specifically designed for web-based learning and are well-suited to the kinds of tasks commonly performed in the classroom, such as researching, accessing digital resources, and using platforms like Google Classroom. With a built-in physical keyboard and larger screen, Chromebooks support more efficient typing and easier navigation between tabs or apps—making them ideal for tasks that require writing, searching, or multitasking

Digital Technology Use

Current Challenge:

The recent review into digital technology use highlighted that some families would prefer to decide whether their child has access to a device at home. Under the current BYOD iPad model, students are expected to bring their devices to and from school, which places responsibility on families to manage screen time and device use outside of school hours. Additionally, some students have been using their iPads at home to connect with peers through messaging apps and gaming, raising concerns around supervision, wellbeing, and online safety

Proposed Solution

By transitioning to school-managed Chromebooks that remain at school, families are no longer required to provide or manage a personal device for school use. This approach respects family preferences regarding device access at home, supports digital equity by ensuring all students have access to the same device during learning hours, and reduces unsupervised online interaction outside of school. It also allows the school to maintain greater control over device use, ensuring technology supports learning in a safe and structured environment.

Key Features of the New Model

- **Family-lease school-managed Chromebooks** - Each student will be provided with a Chromebook through a school-managed leasing program. The device will remain at school and be used during learning hours only. Families will lease the device from the school, removing the need to purchase a personal device and ensuring all students have access to consistent, reliable technology.
- **Cost** - The school would ask for a \$210 contribution from families each year to cover the following costs:
 - **Chromebook device**
 - **Licensing and Software** Chrome Education, Access to school-approved educational tools and platforms (e.g., Google Workspace for Education)
 - **Device Management & Security** Centrally managed settings, restrictions, app access, and web filtering, Regular software updates and security protocols handled by the school's IT system
 - **Technical Support & Troubleshooting** - 3yr Lenovo Education Support
 - **Charging & Storage Infrastructure**
 - **The lease covers the device's use for 4 years**
- **Finance** - The school would liaise with JBHIFI to lease the Chromebooks and finance provided through Melbourne Finance. Families will be invited to contribute a yearly fee of \$210.

Annual Cost

Home			School	
Item	Cost		Item	Cost
Chromebook (58)	\$193.48		Trolleys and charging	\$5500
Charging, storage, imaging, device management and licences	\$16.52		IT support and infrastructure	\$5 000
Total	\$210 (per student per year)		Total	\$10 500