



Saltwater ICT Information Evening – FAQ

Can we use android tablets instead of the iPad?

It is recommended that families use Apple products whilst at school, which includes an iPad or MacBook. This is to ensure that students have access to the same applications that the teachers are modelling, as some Apple apps are not available on Android devices.

If we already have a device, when do we need to drop it off to the school to be configured?

A call out will be made to all families engaging in our BYO Device Program when we are ready to configure devices. This should be made at the start of February.

Can students use iPads and/or MacBooks that have been purchased and used at other schools?

As part of the Bring Your Own (BYO) Device Program, families can provide a device to be configured to use at school. For iPads, please ensure the device is generation 7 or above. If it has been used at another 1:1 device school, please ensure the iPad or MacBook has been reset to factory settings before providing to the school.

If a child is using an iPad from the class set, are they able to take it home?

Unfortunately, class set iPads and MacBooks must remain at school and can only be borrowed out by teachers for students to use during school hours. This means that they cannot be taken home for home learning tasks.

Can you give an example of how students use iPads for learning?

Depending on your child's year level, school-based devices are used for many purposes. The focus of our 1:1 device program is to *enhance* learning, with both iPads and MacBooks used as a tool to support student learning. Please note, devices do not replace traditional learning methods such as reading and writing.

Please see below some of the ways that devices are used at Saltwater College:

- ePortfolios to showcase student work on Schoolbox
- Student goal setting in Reading, Writing and Mathematics
- Research projects
- Publishing work
- Media studies
- Robotics
- Applications that support student learning
- Emails for older students
- Assessments
- Reading
- Recording
- Homework

When can we expect the Beyond the Box forms for device ordering?

Beyond the Box device ordering forms will be available from the front office and will be sent to all new families for 2022 by the end of November.

Is there a fee for configuration when supplying our own device?

No, there is no fee for configuration, however, there is a few for subscriptions. The breakdown of pricing will be sent to families via your child's 2022 Book List.

What subscriptions does the school use and how much are these subscriptions?

The school uses a variety of subscriptions to support student learning whilst at school and at home. Some subscriptions include Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Schoolbox. The full breakdown of pricing and subscriptions will be sent to families via your child's 2022 Book List.

Would students be required to complete work at home?

At Saltwater College, we believe homework is an important element of a child's education from Prep through to Year 9. Depending on your child's year level, there will be an expectation for skills learnt at school to be practised at home. Homework is supported through applications such as Mathletics, Literacy Planet, PM Readers and Reading Eggs, which can be accessed through a device.

For more information on homework, please see our homework policy.

Is there enough class sets for all students?

Although class sets of iPads and MacBooks are available, there is not enough devices for one for every child. If your child doesn't have their own device, their classroom teacher will have the opportunity to loan a device for them to share during activities where an iPad or MacBook is needed. Please note that these devices are limited, and your child may at times have to share this device with other students.

Will students need an Apple Pencil for their iPad?

Students do not need to purchase an Apple Pencil to use with their iPad. The school has class sets of Apple Pencils for students to use if needed for particular subjects, such as art and visual communications.

Are families able to purchase a MacBook from school through Beyond the Box?

Yes. Please complete the Beyond the Box ordering form once received in late November and return to school before the due date indicated.

What year levels use an iPad and what year levels use a MacBook?

Students from Prep to Year 3 use iPads. Students in Year 4 until Year 9 use MacBooks.

Is that mandatory to buy a device for students?

No, it is not mandatory that you participate in the school's 1:1 device program, although it is recommended. Saltwater P-9 College has a voluntary 1:1 device program.

If you change your mind and want to purchase an iPad and/or MacBook later in the year, is that possible?

At any time throughout the year, families have the ability to purchase iPads and MacBooks through Beyond the Box. If families wish to order, please see the school's administration team for order forms and payment information.

When do we provide our children's MacBook or iPad to the school to be configured for next year? How long is the wait for it to be completed?

A call out will be made to all families engaging in our BYO Device Program when we are ready to configure devices. This should be made at the start of February. Configuration can take some time, depending on the demand. We always endeavour to return devices as quickly as possible, and will contact families when they are ready to collect.

Are students disadvantaged by not having a device?

The school endeavours to ensure no students are disadvantaged by not having their own device. All programs used such as Schoolbox or home learning programs (e.g. Mathletics and Reading Eggs) can be accessed from any device, including Android tablets, phones etc. This ensures, in the event of remote learning, students are still able to engage in schoolwork and that students still have access to all homework, even if they do not have a device at school.

Do students bring their iPad and/or MacBook home from school each day?

Any families that provide their own device for their child, as part of the school's 1:1 program, will be required to take their device home each day. Only school loan devices are to remain at school.

What is the recommended screen time for students at school versus at home?

At school, screen time is monitored, and students are only encouraged to use devices where it enhances learning. Devices are not used for all lessons.

At home, it is recommended that families create clear boundaries with their children about what their devices can be used for in the home and how much screen time is suitable based on their child's age. According to Australian guidelines, it is recommended that children over 5 years of age, limit recreational screen time to no more than two hours per day.

Do students bring their device to school each day?

Even though student devices might not be used every day, students are required to bring their devices to school every day.

Can my child charge their device at school?

Students are not able to charge devices at school due to Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S). All devices are to be brought to school fully charged and charged again at the end of each day.