

## Empowered Learning: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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**Has the school Wireless internet structure been upgraded to be able to handle the number of devices that are likely to be active?** Within the last 18 months our Wi-Fi network has had a health check completed to identify signal strength, including areas with a weak signal. This health check resulted in the installation of additional Wi-Fi points to increase coverage, while installing additional local caching servers to improve network performance in relation to app downloads and iOS updates.

**Will each device and charger be labelled with the student's name?** Each device will have an EDIN number on it for easy recognition by staff, however we will explore other ways that students will be able to have their name on it. There are no plans to identify the charger, however students can individually identify it with their name, so it is easily identifiable (as long as it is not permanent).

**Will the device location be enabled (find my location)? When you collate the FAQs, I would like to read about how the privacy issue relating to "find my" location will be handled?** As part of the installation process, the device location will be enabled, as it is important to be able to locate the device in case e.g. stolen. In regard to privacy, 'Find My' is restricted for staff and students across Empowered Learning devices. Staff and student users are not able to access this aspect or to utilise it. Should a report be made to identify a lost or stolen iPad then internal processes will be undertaken and the use of Lost Mode may be appropriate. Identifying the location of a device is a useful tool but is one used in line with internal policies.

**Do they hand them back at each holiday period or just at the end of the school year?** Students will have responsibility for their device. They will bring the device into school each day and will then take it home to support learning. Students will also keep the device at home during the holidays as this will support learning e.g. with S4/5/6 for study. The iPad will need to be returned to school, for example, if your child is in S1 returned at the end of S3, for an upgrade and we will notify you of this. When leaving Currie the device will need to be returned for processing, as this belongs to City of Edinburgh Council.

**Does the iPad have native content filters, or does it rely on the school network filtering when on site? Do the content filters work at home too?** The iPad has a device-based web filtering system installed. That means web content is filtered no matter which network the iPad is connected to, whether at school or at home.

**Will the students be expected to carry paper jotters as well as iPads?** The device is to be an extension and enhancement of learning, but is not a complete replacement, so jotters will still be used. As part of the SAMR model, dependent upon faculty priorities, they may move away from jotters to OneNote, while getting the balance right, especially with certain subjects needing to develop writing skills e.g. English, History and Maths.

**What happens if the device is lost, stolen or damaged?** We will be taking each situation on a case-by-case basis. As part of the [acceptable use form](#), it outlines what the expectations are, such as reporting anything directly to Mr Schmidt, so that immediate action can be taken. We will work to allow access to a temporary device to support your child's learning, if appropriate.

**Are they insured for accidental damage or theft?** We will be taking each situation on a case-by-case basis to come up with the right solution for this.

**Will there be accessibility tools for learning installed or available for use?** There are a range of accessibility tools built into the iPad such as immersive reader, magnifier, voiceover, zoom and audio descriptions. There are also other apps in the 'self-service' portal that can be downloaded to support learning, such as Microsoft translator and natural reader – text to speech. All of these are available to be used by students to support their learning and can be downloaded in school or at home.

**Are pupils able to use peripherals at home with the iPad, such as Bluetooth keyboard / Apple pencil, if they have access to them?** If you so choose, yes you can use a Bluetooth keyboard, apple pencil, etc. at home. These can also be bought into school to support learning; however, the student will be responsible for these.

**Which iPad model will be issued?** The iPads are either a Generation 7 or 8 model.

**If the student's name is not on the iPad physically is there a risk of students mistakenly taking another student's device?** We have a unique number that identifies the student and device, and this will be shared with staff to make identification easier. We will explore other ways of identification, for example, something with your child's name on it which can be seen through the case, which has a transparent back.

**Maybe the lock screen could be a photo of their name?** Unfortunately, we cannot use a picture of your child, however we will look into options, such as having a challenge to create a background with their name. They could use different apps in the self-service portal to achieve this, while we check to see if it is appropriate and not offensive.

**Are games disabled or will they be able to access app store and buy them? This could be a distraction.** There will not be an App Store on the device. Each student will be issued with a Managed Apple ID allowing educational use only. There are pre-approved apps that are free on the 'self-service' portal, and none of these will be games, unless they are identified to be beneficial to learning, such as SumDog.

**Will the apps be updated centrally and pushed to the iPads or are the students expected to update the apps themselves?** If the device's iOS (operating system) is updated regularly, after the initial installation of apps, they will be automatically updated when appropriate. This means students will not need to do any updates, except for the iOS, and instructions can be provided on how to do this (Settings > General > Software Update).

**Will the 6th yrs iPads be handed to the new 1st years?** We are unsure at this time about how that will take place. Once we have been through the rollout and continued use throughout the year, we will be able to share details of any rollover, etc. and if students are impacted in any way. The iPads will however will need to be returned to the school upon leaving, in S6, and other year groups too.

**Is YouTube blocked e.g. via Safari?** As part of the web filtering system, YouTube is not blocked on Safari (there is no app in the self-service portal). There is a significant amount of useful content, and the web filtering system provides a degree of filtering. If there is inappropriate use of YouTube during lessons or in school, our behaviour management policy, including consequences will apply.

**I don't believe any iPads are truly waterproof, just thinking about very rainy days!** We believe that the cover is robust and will be protected from water. With the iPad being stored in a bag during break and lunch, this should minimise direct contact. If damage like this happens, we will look into this on a case-by-case basis.

**Does the iPad automatically backup the students work?** Students work will not be automatically backed up. We strongly encourage students to save files to their own OneDrive, which is part of Office365, not to the device. There is enough space on Office 365 for this and it will allow students to access their files on other devices too.

**Will they be able to install printers at home? AirPrint?** We have checked and AirPrint is turned on, however it will not accept "destinations with untrusted certificates", so for some students it may work at home, but for others it may not.

**Can your child replace the cover with another one with a keyboard included?** We recommend that the iPad remains in the case, as this is linked to the [responsible use agreement](#). If you would wish to buy an external wired or wireless keyboard you can. By keeping the iPad in this cover, it allows easier reinforcement of the 'Code of Conduct' by staff, along with the EDIN number and potential name to assist if lost, as it has a transparent back cover.

**Will they connect to a VPN when logged into the Wi-Fi?** We have spoken with the Empowered Learning Team who have advised that the use of VPN is blocked.

**Do we sign a contract?** An [acceptable use form](#), linked to the [responsible use agreement](#), needs to be completed by the student and parent/carer to say that you are aware of and are agreeing to keep the iPad safe and using it appropriately. The form also has information on expectations and consequences, along with details about repairs and costs. No signature is needed, typing in names will be considered the signature. The [acceptable use form](#) must be completed by the date agreed (28.06.23), otherwise no device can be issued to them, until it is completed.