

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why do our children need an iPad?

Having good ICT skills is becoming a basic requirement of any employer. Children need to be prepared for an increasingly digital world and this will give them a unique opportunity to be highly skilled.

Education research has shown that good home access to technology has a positive impact on a child's educational results; it often motivates them to do their schoolwork, their work is better presented so their self-esteem grows; and they can explore subjects that interest them in their own time. Having access to a device at school and at home helps to ensure that schoolwork continues seamlessly.

What if we don't want to take part?

While we would encourage all families to take part, it is your right to choose not to do so. It is important however, that as many families contribute as possible, to help the school fund all the elements of providing this tech-enabled learning. If the school cannot raise enough funds from parents/carers it may be that the school will be unable to run the Programme at all. Donations help ensure that every child can benefit from access to an iPad.

Who owns the Device?

Your contribution is a charitable donation towards the programme, not a payment towards the device. Your donation does not cover the full cost of running the programme. Additional money will be provided from school funds and grants we may win from other sources. The school will contact you directly at the end of the scheme regarding the final payment to keep the device.

What happens if the Device gets damaged or lost?

The iPads will be insured for accidental damage and theft (subject to exclusions shown in our iPad Repair Terms & Conditions). Families will have to pay a fee towards the cost of replacement or repair. Please see the school's iPad web pages for more details.

Why can't the school provide these for nothing?

The school receives some funding for ICT in school, and this is spent on the network, staff, software, ICT suites, printers, training etc. Equipment for use at home and for personal use by your children is over and above this, which is why schools ask families to make a contribution. Without that help the Programme would not be able to go ahead.

What happens if I can't make the regular donations?

No child will be excluded from access to an iPad because of their parents' 'financial circumstances so please contact the iPads Administrator if your financial circumstances change.

Can I donate by cash or cheque?

No. Collecting cash involves a lot more work and administration costs for the school so we ask for payments by direct debit.

What happens if I change my mind in a few months' time?

This would give the school a big problem as the decision to go ahead and buy the devices for the children will be based on the initial level of support from our parents. Changing your mind halfway through the programme would compromise the school's finances. This is a commitment to the children that needs to be seen through.

Why am I making a donation to the Digital Poverty Alliance (formerly known as the Learning Foundation)?

The Digital Poverty Alliance is a registered education charity that is collecting monthly parental donations on our behalf to save us administration costs. They will collect your donation every month and apply for Gift Aid (tax relief) where applicable, and then grant the money back to us to pay the bills.

Do I have to sign the Gift Aid declaration?

It is vital that you do this if you are a UK taxpayer; otherwise, the cost of administering the collection of donations has to come out of the donations themselves. Gift Aid applies to all contributions so please do sign it if you are a taxpayer.

How much do we need to donate?

We ask that you make the donation we ask for in our invitation letter. This is currently £13 a month for Lower School Schemes, and £17 a month for the Sixth Form scheme.

Will we be able to access the Internet?

If you have internet at home the iPad will be able to connect to that. A wireless router that plugs into your internet allows the device to be wirelessly enabled. Alternatively, the iPad can connect to Wi-Fi wirelessly from a mobile phone.

Why should I donate if others don't?

We will only run this programme if parents want it and are prepared to contribute. While a small number of families in difficult circumstances can be accommodated, unless there is widespread support for the programme then the school will not be able to provide it to your children. If you are interested in the school doing this, then please encourage other parents to support the programme too.

Will we need to buy any other equipment?

Ideally, every pupil should have access to the Internet at home. You may also want to get a printer so that your child can print off their work, but this is not essential as they can always do this when they come back to school.

What happens when I sign the Gift Aid declaration?

The Digital Poverty software holds this data as proof to the Inland Revenue from whom they collect the additional 25% in Gift Aid.

Who do I tell if I change my bank account?

Parents can change their bank account details by logging into the Parent Payment Portal at the Digital Poverty Alliance at <https://digitalpovertyalliance.beaconforms.com/form/7f7507f3>

What if I have a query about my payments that isn't covered by the Parent Payment Portal?

Please contact The Digital Poverty Alliance via their Parent Contact Form. You can find this on their website at <https://digitalpovertyalliance.org/dms/> and by click on the button **Support for Parents**