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Personal Learning Device (PLD) Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

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Personal Learning Device

1. Why has the school chosen the iPad as the student’s personal learning device?

The iPad is a lightweight device that offers students convenient learning on-the-move and is relatively easy to use. A full charge of the battery typically allows students to use the iPad for the entire curriculum hours. It allows for a seamless learning experience with existing teaching and learning technologies such as the Singapore Student Learning Space, Microsoft 365 and Google Suite, in addition to native Apple apps.

2. How will my child/ward be using the device?

The device will be used to complement classroom teaching by promoting active learning and greater personalisation of students’ schooling experience. Students can make use of digital tools such as calendaring and note-taking applications to enhance their personal productivity. They will also have more opportunities to connect, discuss and collaborate with their peers through digital platforms such as the Singapore Student Learning Space (SLS) and Microsoft Teams.

The device can also be used beyond the classroom for home-based and self-directed learning, so that students can benefit from a seamless learning experience in and out of school.

3. What version of the iPad will my child/ward be buying through the school?

Students will be buying the iPad 9th Generation Wifi only version with 64GB memory.

4. Can my child/ward use other devices, e.g a laptop?

The school has selected the **iPad** as the students’ personal learning device. The school programmes and lessons will be designed to leverage the features of the iPad to enhance teaching and learning. For example, during lessons, students will be using the iPad and Apple Pencil to take digital notes or use other applications available on the iPad for learning. In addition, the Device Management Application (DMA) that is required can only be installed in an iPad.

5. Can my child/ward buy the iPad on his/her own or use an existing iPad?

Students are not encouraged to buy the iPad on their own as they will not be able to get the same pricing for the bundle nor be able to tap on their Edusave to pay for the device.

Students who wish to use an existing iPad must first bring the device to the **ICT room** for an assessment of the device's suitability to support their participation in the school's teaching and learning programmes. They should also bring along the accessories (e.g stylus and keyboard) to be used with the device.

The school will assess the iPad for the following:

- a. device should not be older than 4 years from manufacturing date;
- b. battery should hold charge for at least 4 hours;
- c. comparable form factor and features to school's bulk tender device (e.g. device capable of running iPadOS 15, device speed, device screen size);
- d. compatible stylus and keyboard.

6. Can my child/ward customise the PLD bundle, e.g choose the iPad colour, upgrade the storage or choose not to purchase the accessories?

Students are unable to customise the PLD bundle purchased through the school. The school has selected a specific bundle that meets the teaching and learning needs, provides sufficient protection against damages while remaining affordable.

7. Can my child/ward personalise his/her PLD, e.g engrave his/her name, set their own passcode?

Students are allowed to personalise their PLD including engraving his/her name, putting stickers etc. However, the personalisation must be done in a manner that is appropriate and not offensive. Students who have personalised their PLD in an inappropriate manner will be asked to rectify them, failing which they will not be allowed to use the PLD in school.

Students should set their own password and not share the passcode with others so as to protect their personal data.

8. Is my child/ward expected to purchase cloud storage? Are there sufficient space to backup files?

Students are not expected to purchase cloud storage. The iPad comes with 64GB of internal storage and students will also have access to Microsoft Onedrive and Google Drive cloud storage for free to backup important files.

Students are also encouraged to delete unwanted files periodically to clear storage space.

9. What happens to the device after my child/ward graduates from school?

The school will uninstall the DMA from the devices upon students' graduation or when they leave the school. Students will have full control and personal ownership over their devices then.

Accounts and Application

10. Can my child/ward download his/her own apps, e.g games, entertainment?

During school-hours, the school will use the Device Management Application (DMA) to restrict students' access to certain apps to minimise distraction.

Outside school-hours, parents/guardians can allow their child/ward to download his/her own apps by selecting either DMA Option A or Option B.

More details on the various after-school DMA options and how to select these options can be found on the school website:

<https://damaisec.moe.edu.sg/information/parents/device-management-application>

11. Can my child/ward continue to use the M365 account after he/she graduates from school?

The Microsoft 365 account is only valid when the student is enrolled in the school; it will be deactivated when the student graduates or leaves the school.

Financial Matters

12. How can I check my child/ward's Edusave balance?

Please call **6260 0777** to check the Edusave balance.

13. How do I know how much is the outstanding amount payable? Will I be alerted on the outstanding amount payable for GIRO before the money is deducted?

Each student will receive a personalised school bill on the amount payable after subsidy and deduction of Edusave amount (if applicable) in February 2022. Thereafter, parents may make any outstanding payment via Giro / Cash / SAM / Cheque (if applicable).

14. Is it possible to pay in instalments?

No, instalment payments are not allowed.

15. Is my child/ward eligible for subsidies? How can I apply for subsidy to pay for my child/ward's PLD?

Subsidies are provided for students who are on MOE or School-based financial assistance.

If your child/ward is a Singapore citizen and you are using Edusave to pay for the PLD, the full cost of the PLD will be deducted from the Edusave. Hence, if there is sufficient Edusave fund, there is **no need** to make further cash payment or apply for subsidies for the PLD. If there is insufficient Edusave fund and you require assistance to pay for the outstanding payment, please email damai_ss@moe.edu.sg.

If your child is a PR or International Student and you require financial assistance to pay for the PLD, please email damai_ss@moe.edu.sg.

16. If my child/ward is under the MOE FAS, and if there are sufficient Edusave balance, will the outstanding amount be fully deducted after the subsidy?

Yes, it is compulsory for students on the MOE Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) to use their Edusave to pay for the PLD, after subsidies have been granted.

17. Can Edusave be used to buy accessories (e.g keyboard, Apple pencil) for the device?

Edusave fund can only be used to purchase the PLD bundle stipulated by the school. Students will not be able to tap on their Edusave to purchase accessories only.

Infrastructure

18. Can my child/ward use the Wi-Fi in school?

Yes, students can log onto the Wi-Fi in school to access the internet.

19. Are lockers available in school? If not, how will students secure their device in school? Can students store the device in school overnight?

Lockers are not available in school as students are expected to bring along their PLD for all curriculum lessons. The iPad is light-weight and students can carry them for lessons on-the-go.

Students are not allowed to store the PLD in school. Students will need to charge their PLDs at home as charging is not allowed in school.

Insurance and Warranty

20. What do the insurance and warranty cover?

Insurance coverage is only applicable to situations of damages and loss where the student has taken precautions to safeguard the device. The insurance coverage for the enhanced device bundle will cover fire, lightning, power surges, accidental e.g. water spillages, drop, theft due to forcible entry and robbery. Students will be able to make two repairs or one replacement claim through this coverage. There will also be fortnightly courier services by the Vendor for damaged devices.

21. If the device has already been sent for multiple repairs and is still faulty, will it be eligible for a replacement?

The device is covered with a three-year warranty. Please refer to the terms and conditions of the warranty on whether a replacement would be provided.

Textbooks

22. Do students still need to buy and bring their books after they get their PLD? If so, why?

Students will still need to buy and bring their books as not all textbooks and workbooks are available in digital form. We will advise parents/guardians in due course on the availability and the purchase of digital books.