



## *A Useful Guide for parents of Pupils using iPads to enrich their education*

We are very grateful to parents for assisting our school in the transformation from conventional text-books to embracing iPads in the enrichment of the learning environment. We are very confident that such a transformation will promote greater independent and personalised learning - a key life-skill for the future.



From the moment a student is provided with an iPad, some very basic ground-rules are agreed between the college, parents and students (the users who will eventually own the iPad).

Such an agreement will ensure that the investment made in purchasing an iPad will properly enrich a young person's development and curiosity for learning. Otherwise, the iPad will only become an expensive toy with a limited influence on learning. There are a few simple points for parents and pupils to note, and these are outlined below;

### 1. 'Novelty Effect' & Awareness

The iPad can be addictive, with accessibility features, interactive content and impressive functionality, users can be easily consumed with the device. It is important for both parents and pupils to be aware that one can spend a lot of time on the iPad, at first, and that ensuring it is put away, or left in the kitchen for the night is a good habit to foster. Indeed, parents should 'lead by example' and adopt a practice that all phones and tablets are left in the kitchen for charging at night-time. This will ensure that everybody gets a good night sleep - even your iPad! The same should be done for smartphones as this is not confined to iPads.

### 2. Notifications

Turning off app notifications, especially those distracting ones from social media providers is an important consideration in minimising distractions while students are engaged in learning and homework. This can be done in the Settings app of the iPad and under the individual App in question. Please note Social

media app such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat etc. are prohibited on the educational device. Parents are asked to refer to the College Code of Conduct and the Acceptable Use Policy regarding same.



### 3. Restrictions

Pupil iPads are restricted to age-appropriate & educational material. The iPads are monitored and configured using specialised software. Students College Apple ID will be the only Apple ID permitted on the educational device.

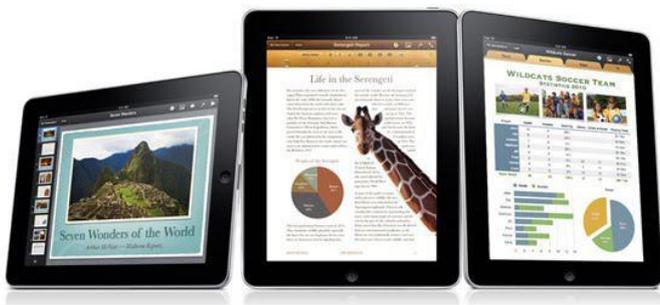


#### 4. Discuss the iPad

Ask your child to demonstrate how the iPad is used in school and how they learn with it. Ask them to show you how to use it. Advise them of the importance of understanding how to use the Internet properly - and that not all websites are accurate or correct in what they might contain. Discuss the College Code of Conduct and the Acceptable Use Policy with your child. Discuss the video content on [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie) relating to social media safeguarding.

#### 5. Monitor the use of the iPad

Discuss good learning environments with your child and establish positive behaviours around home-works and focused, quiet study. Agree a centralised place in the household where home-works and study may take place - preferably within sight of a supervising adult.



#### 6. Protect your iPad

Student iPads come with a protective case and screen protector which should not be removed. Accidents can happen - A charge of €50 is payable towards iPad repair.

#### 7. Regular Contact with College

Maintain close contact with the College, and if you require any advice, assistance or need to query what work is being done with the iPad, the school and subject teachers can keep you briefed on this.

If an iPad becomes damaged, please contact the college for advice on where and how it can be repaired. Do not take the device to a repair shop which may claim that it repairs Apple devices.

Finally, please make sure that you take a 'common-sense' like approach to how you relate to your child with all matters technology based. Nurturing responsible and respectful behaviour is what is most important as our young people are living in an exciting technological age and they need to be fully equipped and confident to embrace it.

- Read Apple's advice about iPad parental restrictions: [www.support.apple.com](http://www.support.apple.com)
- CommonSenseMedia.org - CommonSenseMedia.org has a great assortment of videos and articles that explain how parents can help teach digital citizenship. [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)
- The Department of Education & Skills, through the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) has an excellent website for parents: [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie)