

Re: Dealing with the challenges – and maximising impact – of iPad deployment and use at primary. 7 Points to note for IT technical staff and school leadership.

1. Due to their portability and management, iPads in school need careful consideration for sustainable and useful, week by week deployment. There is a lot that can be gained through well-provisioned iPad usage in a primary school: Computing curriculum; video, sound and animation; KS1 learning; app locked-down activities; portable photography; data logging; QR code access; online journals. No school is the same, and a school must identify exactly what they want to get from such devices in the short to medium and longer term. This will dictate how they wish to timetable the devices and where they may wish to locate them in the school.

2. While there remain schools that prefer to keep iPads in one charging trolley together, grouping iPads into a manageable set of 8 can make care and timetabling of such a resource easier. It can also make Apple Classroom (see below) a viable and useful tool. Creating a fixed place where iPads must be returned for charging can be a useful strategy, though the best storage option will vary depending on the school. Heavy-duty tape and cable ties to secure the charging leads are vital measures to prevent such leads from being “borrowed” - and perhaps never returned. Clear labels on devices, e.g. 1-8, are useful visual reminders for retaining the resource, and can be useful for children returning to their previously produced pieces of work.



3. Giving particular children status as ‘digital leaders’ may help routines such as returning devices to charge run smoothly. The role of digital leaders can be expanded to areas such as assisting staff, and roles within a school council / e-safety.

4. SEND children require individual consideration. It may be that either a Chromebook or iPad can help a child to access the curriculum, occasionally or regularly. This must not mean that a resource set of devices loses a vital device and cannot function.

5. Apple Classroom can be a very useful tool for quick selection of an app (or apps) for children to use. Often the easiest, most useful way for it to be set up is with 1 iPad (in a set of 8, for example) holds the Apple Classroom app. This iPad needs to be clearly labelled with a sticker so that any teacher knows which device to use. Training, including a quick video, will make this easy for staff to understand and use.



6. Old iPad 2 devices could be set up for child use, possibly at the lower end of the school. A selection of apps such as this might be useful. The cameras are not great on iPad 2s – therefore they should be avoided by adults for photo taking.

7. iPad mini (especially iPad mini 2) devices are well-suited for wiping clean and repurposed as stripped-down devices by teachers and TAs. Photogrid or equivalent is a fairly standard request for printing photos. Tapestry may be useful if staff are working 1:1 with particular children. Microsoft or Google apps may also be useful for staff accessing emails / online storage / internal comms.

