



Mentone Girls' S.C. Year 7-8 iPad Program



Frequently Asked Questions

Will my daughter be using her iPad in all lessons throughout the day?

iPads will be used by students as and when required in each subject area. It is not expected that the iPads will be in use all the time, but rather students will use them when needed to support their learning.

How will the iPads be used in class?

The iPad is a 'companion' device, providing a range of support to students. Skill-based apps for understanding and practising new concepts, access to online, interactive resources and texts, as well as communication with teachers and other students.

What are the 'rules' for my daughter to use her iPad at school?

All students are required to sign an Acceptable Use Agreement relating to the use of iPads, computers and the Internet at Mentone Girls Secondary College. Breaches of the agreement will be addressed on an individual basis.

Can my daughter use her iPad at recess and lunchtime at school?

Students are not permitted to take their iPads into the school yard at recess or lunchtime. Students may use their iPad (for study purposes only) at designated tables in the Junior Learning Centre during lunchtime.

How can my daughter protect her iPad from accidental damage?

All iPads should be kept in a protective case. In addition, a compact laptop style bag is required to help students carry the iPad between classes. Students are instructed to not allow other students to use their iPad and to not leave iPads on the floor, on science benches, near food technology sinks and ovens, on woodwork benches, etc.

My daughter's iPad is not working. Are loan devices available?

Short-term iPad loans are available for a range of circumstances, e.g. if your daughter's iPad needs repairing. Parents should contact the College if a temporary loan is required.

Should my daughter be spending a lot of time completing homework on her iPad?

Homework and iPad activities will vary between subjects and will also depend on the tasks set across each term. The iPad is a tool to support learning and should be used in an open and transparent manner. Ask your daughter to show you how she is using the iPad to support the work that she is doing. If the iPad is not required for a task, it is best that it is put away or shut down for that period of time. It is recommended that hard copy novels, not eBooks, are used in the wide reading program.

How are students supported in cybersafety practices?

Cybersafety programs are included in the Year 7 Personal Learning and Health programs. Importantly, parents need to be aware of their daughter's activities online at home and how she is using the Internet and iPads apps.

Can my daughter access social media apps and sites at school?

The Department of Education & Training (DET) and Mentone Girls' Secondary College (MGSC) have filtering policies in place. Filtering tools restrict access to sites and apps that are not of educational value or which can be misused or distracting for students. New Web2.0 tools and iPad apps are released regularly and are often embraced quickly by teenagers; hence our filtering lists are under continual review. *Students should not have Virtual Private Network (VPN) connections on their iPads.*

My daughter has downloaded apps that I do not think she should be using. What should I do?

Parents are responsible for deciding how apps are downloaded from the App Store. Parents should develop household rules for this. Apple Family Sharing is the recommended set-up for families, allowing parents to approve or decline their daughter's app requests. Adolescent children will not necessarily make the best decisions when using social media. If necessary, delete any unwanted apps from the iPad and change the password on the iTunes account.

Further Information

Excellent resources for parents include:

- **Apple Family Sharing Guide** - <https://www.apple.com/icloud/family-sharing/>
- **iPad Support and Tutorials** - <http://www.apple.com/au/support/ipad/>

Refer also to the Mentone Girls' Secondary College website at <http://www.mgsc.vic.edu.au/elearning>

For any other inquiries, please contact the Director of eLearning, on 9581 5238 or via hall.jonathan.m@edumail.vic.gov.au.