



## **Bringing Your iPad or iPod to School.**

Thank you for your interest in using mobile devices at Gulf Harbour School.

There has been a movement in a number of schools towards the use of student owned mobile devices. At Gulf Harbour we have always had a strong belief in the power of integrating technology into learning and, if we are to prepare children for the future we need to point them in that direction. We are excited about the educational opportunities we believe devices will bring and see them as the way forward.

We believe that these devices need to be owned and used by students. Our focus can then be on teaching students how to use the technology to enhance their learning rather than just learning to use the technology.

Of course, there are some really important considerations that we need to address and with great power comes greater responsibility. Being a responsible digital citizen is important and attached is an agreement setting out expected behaviour. This should be carefully worked through together with your child.

We will keep devices as safe as possible, closely supervising their use in class time and locking them away at break times and lunch. However, we cannot take responsibility for your devices. To avoid issues with theft or damage we recommend the following. Purchase a good protective case and have it clearly labelled. Lock the screen with pin number. Use 'Locate my iPad' on the device. Have the body of iPad/iPod labelled and consider having it engraved. Please contact your insurance company to check out options. Make sure that the device arrives at school fully charged each day and ready to use.

It is important that you as a parent have control of the iTunes account where Apps (applications) and music etc. are purchased. Legally an account holder should be 13 years old. In this way you can discuss and control what and how the device will be used.

Students have will have Wifi access and this will be controlled and monitored. We have a filtering system working so students must not avoid this by using 3G or 4G networks.

We are promoting the use of one operating system. We are keen to have a focus on iPads, iPad minis and iPods. This is for a number of reasons. We believe the Apple platform to be stable and more educationally focused. We also believe this will help teachers if they are working with one system. If you have an Android device your child can bring this, access the school wifi and use these within classrooms. Teachers will however have Apple devices so students will need to be able to use the device more independently.

We have not yet created a comprehensive list of essential Apps but you will find a list of recommended free Apps on the school website. Your student's teacher can give some guidance on this especially if there is a particular App being used in that class. Remember ultimately that our goal is to enhance students learning opportunities. The possibilities these devices bring far out weight the concerns. Please return signed copy of agreement to the student centre, at that stage we will set up the device with a wifi password to use the school system.

Regards

Max Brown  
Oversight

John Petrie  
Principal