

Tuesday 13th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are pleased to share an exciting update regarding the future of learning at Ryecroft CE Middle School. As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a modern, engaging, and effective education for all pupils, we will be introducing a 1:1 iPad programme for all children from September 2025.

Our Vision for a Digital Learning Environment

In today's rapidly evolving world, digital literacy is a vital skill for success both in school and beyond. By integrating technology into the classroom, we aim to enrich each child's educational experience—making learning more interactive, personalised, and engaging. The transition to iPads will support a range of learning styles, develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and help prepare pupils for the future.

Why iPads?

We believe iPads are an ideal tool to bring learning to life in the following ways:

1. **Engaging Learning** – iPads offer a wealth of educational apps and resources across all subjects, encouraging creativity, collaboration, and curiosity.
2. **Personalised Education** – Teachers can tailor learning to meet individual needs, enabling a more personalised and targeted approach.
3. **Anytime, Anywhere Learning** – Pupils will take their iPad home each evening, allowing them to continue their learning beyond the classroom and support independent study.
4. **Digital Citizenship** – The programme will also promote responsible use of technology, with a focus on online safety, appropriate digital habits, and ethical use of information.

Parent Contribution

To support the rollout of this initiative, we kindly ask parents and carers to contribute £7 per month towards the cost of the device during your child's time at Ryecroft. In addition to parental contributions, the school and the Trust are investing significantly in this project. This will ensure that every pupil has access to a high-quality iPad to support his or her learning. Devices will be supplied by the school and will travel home with pupils each day to promote continuity in their learning.

Support and Security

We understand that the introduction of technology at home may raise questions. Please be assured that we will provide training and guidance to help you support your child's use of the iPad. All devices will be monitored using **Securly**, a safeguarding and security system, to ensure appropriate and safe usage at all times.

How to Sign Up

To obtain your child's iPad, please click this link:

<https://www.cpu.co.uk/CINT/MobileLearning/selectSchool.asp>

Then enter the correct year group code when prompted:

- **Year 5 (from Sept 2025):** Portal Code – RCEMS25Yr5
- **Year 6 (from Sept 2025):** Portal Code – RCEMS25Yr6
- **Year 7 (from Sept 2025):** Portal Code – RCEMS25Yr7
- **Year 8 (from Sept 2025):** Portal Code – RCEMS25Yr8

*Please note: select the year group your child will be in from **September 2025**, not their current year group.*

Once in the portal, please select the iPad, choose your preferred contribution option, agree to the terms and conditions, create an account, enter your details, and place your order.

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium, please contact the school office, who will provide you with the relevant portal details.

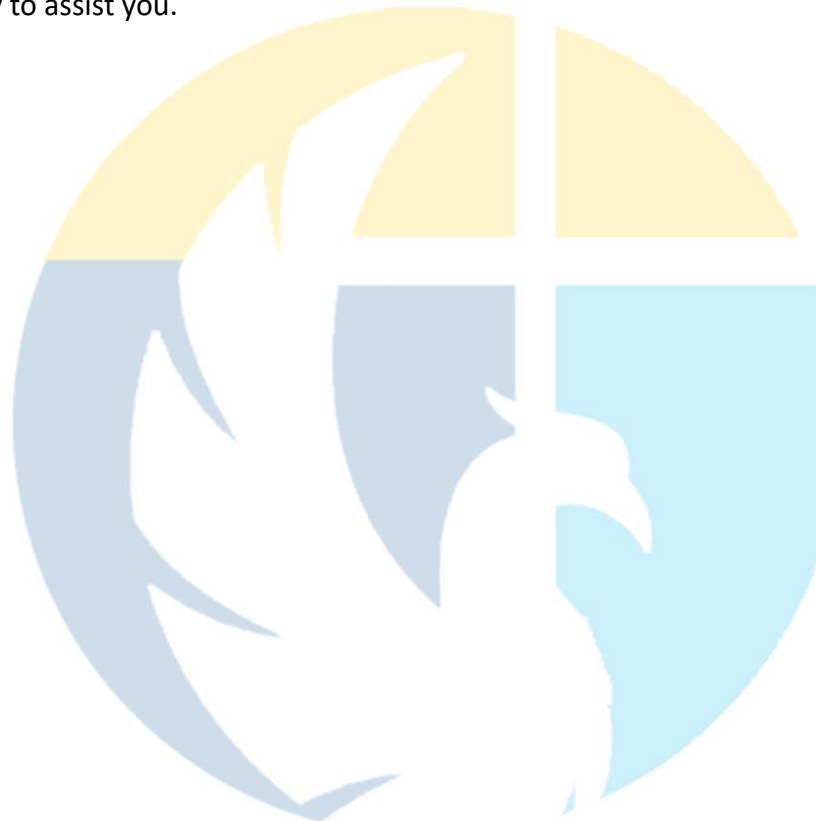
Please take the time to read our Frequently Asked Questions. If you require further information, do not hesitate to contact the school office, who will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,



Mrs A Grattage
Headteacher



Parents' FAQs

What is I2E Digital Futures?

We are introducing iPads for every student to enhance learning opportunities through technology. Students will receive their own device to use throughout the school year.

Why is the school implementing this initiative?

Digital literacy is increasingly important for academic and future career success. iPads provide access to interactive learning resources, support personalised learning paths, and help students develop crucial technology skills.

How will iPads be used in the classroom?

Teachers will integrate iPads into lessons for interactive activities, research, digital textbooks, educational apps, collaborative projects, and assessments. They will complement rather than replace traditional learning methods.

Will my child still learn traditional skills like handwriting?

Yes. iPads will enhance learning, not replace core skills. Teachers will maintain a balanced approach with appropriate time for handwriting, physical books, and non-digital activities. The iPads will come with a stylus for writing on the iPad screen so that students continue to develop handwriting skills.

What is the financial contribution expected from parents?

We are asking parents to contribute £7 per month toward the cost of the devices. This helps sustain the program while keeping costs manageable for families.

What if I cannot afford the contribution?

Financial assistance options are available. Please speak confidentially with the school. We are committed to ensuring all students have equal access regardless of financial circumstances.

Can I just not use my own iPad?

Our iPads are on the latest operating system and have to be configured so that they are compatible with and can use the school systems. This is not possible on personal devices. Our safeguarding software will only work on our school iPads.



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Website: www.ryecroft.staffs.sch.uk

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Who owns the iPad?

The school loans the iPad to you while your child is at the school. The school retains ownership of the iPad. Parents will have a right to take ownership of the iPad at the end of their time with the school (a market value redemption will be issued at that time which will include any remaining payments under the lease)

What happens if the iPad is damaged, lost, or stolen?

The school has an insurance policy covering basic repairs. For situations involving negligence or repeated damage, parents may be asked to contribute toward replacement costs. Please report any incidents immediately. Please do not attempt to repair the iPad yourself. If the iPad is lost or stolen, please inform us immediately. Our system allows us to lock and track the iPads. If the iPad is stolen, please report to the police and pass the crime number to the school - a replacement can then be arranged. If an iPad is being repaired, a temporary replacement device will be issued.

Can I replace the iPad case?

The iPad should not be taken out the case or put into a different case, as this will invalidate the insurance policy. If an iPad is damaged while out of the case, we will ask parents to pay for the repair.

How will the school ensure appropriate use of iPads?

All devices will have content filtering and monitoring software installed. Students will sign an acceptable use policy, and teachers will actively supervise iPad use during school hours.

Will my child bring the iPad home?

Yes. Students will be responsible for bringing fully charged devices to school each day along with their stylus (which has an approximate battery life of 15 hours)

How will you prevent students from being distracted by games or social media?

School iPads will have restrictions limiting non-educational apps and websites. Teachers will receive training on classroom management strategies for technology use. The Apple Classroom app allows teachers to monitor use of the iPad by every student during the lesson.

What training will teachers receive?

Our staff will participate in comprehensive professional development to effectively integrate technology into their curriculum and manage digital classrooms. This training has already been ongoing since September 2024.

How will you protect my child's privacy and data?

All apps and services will comply with student privacy laws. We have selected educational platforms with strong privacy protections, and personal information will be protected according to our privacy policy.



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How will the iPad be used for homework?

Where relevant, all homework instructions will be set through the Showbie app. Homework will include a balance of digital and traditional assignments. Parents will be invited to an event in the autumn term explaining how Showbie is used in the classroom and for homework.

How can I learn more about supporting my child's digital learning?

We will host parent workshops throughout the year on topics like digital citizenship, online safety, and supporting learning with technology at home.

I am concerned about the amount of screen time that my child will experience.

We believe that there is a big difference between passive screen time (where children 'consume' content such as watching films or gaming) and active screen time where children are creating, interacting and learning. Active screen time provides cognitive benefits. Studies have shown that children respond to activity-based tasks when they are fun, designed for them and encourage imitation or participation. These can include learning a new skill like coding games or websites, creating music, writing and publishing stories or poetry, or simply anything else that requires them to use the creative side of their brains. Any activity that encourages children to think is good for their cognitive development and the iPad provides a wide range of opportunities for this. Recent large-scale studies by Oxford and Cambridge University have shown that there are no negative impacts of increased screen time (this study included increases in passive screen time). Negative impact can come from what children have access to on their screens. Our iPads will be filtered and monitored to prevent children from accessing any damaging material.

Is there any research on the impact of iPads?

There is a growing amount of research about the positive impact of iPads on children's learning. The large majority of recent studies have found that there are a wide range of positive impacts of technology on learning. Where the studies fail to find a positive impact it is often due to the implementation of the devices in a classroom (i.e. poor integration with teaching and curriculum) or because of poor staff training. We have already begun a strategic approach to ensuring high quality staff training and well-planned integration in to the classroom to avoid potential drawbacks.

Some examples include:

- Children's mathematics achievement was greater with tablets in comparison to traditional, non-touchscreen methods such as workbooks. (A systematic review in 2022)
- Better learning outcomes were detected when children used touchscreens compared to non-touchscreen usage (meta-analysis of 2018)
- for children using a stylus, their performance did not significantly differ neither from a keyboard nor from a pencil groups.



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How will the way in which children learn change because of the iPads?

There are a number of key areas that can be greatly improved with the use of the iPad. All of these areas have huge amounts of educational research to support their impact in the classroom:

Retrieval / spaced practice
Adaptive teaching / practice
Teacher modelling and explanation
Formative assessment
Feedback
Creativity

"Success will be determined by the quality of the pedagogy and the way in which it is implemented" (Educational Endowment Foundation)

Why can't the school fully pay for the iPads?

Years of declining school budgets from central government have put us in the position where it just simply is not an option. 95% of school leaders (source: Dept for Education, 2023) say that budgetary constraints are the biggest barrier to increased uptake of technology by schools. We do not want this to be the reason why year after year, we continue to deny your children the benefits that technology can bring.

What does the insurance cover?

- Accidental damage is covered by the insurance (with a charge to parent/carer of £50 excess for any claim towards repair or replacement)
- Deliberate damage is not covered by the insurance.
- A lost iPad is also not covered by the insurance.
- Any malfunction of the device will be covered by the warranty and there will be no excess charge for repair or replacement.
- If the iPad is stolen, a crime number must be obtained and the iPad will be replaced. There is no excess charge for this

Why has the school chosen iPads?

We have visited a range of other schools that have successfully integrated iPads into their teaching and have seen the positive impact of them. Alternative tablets do not offer the range of features, functions, security, robustness and durability that the iPad offers. Laptops similarly, do not offer the versatility and usability that the iPad does.



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What if I don't take part in the scheme?

If the large majority of parents do not take part in the scheme, we will not be able to go ahead with the scheme. The school's current iPads are due to move to another school in the Trust in September and our school will have to revert to the methods of teaching and learning it was using prior to this year.

If the scheme runs but you do not take part. Your child will still have access to a shared device during the lessons where a device is deemed essential by the teacher but it will not be personalised for your child and they will not be able to take it home.

Will the price change during the scheme?

The iPads are acquired on a four-year lease. We can therefore guarantee that the price will stay the same for at least four years. However, we have no influence on the retail price of technology, which may go up or down over time. We have through extensive research, acquired the devices at the cheapest price we could and passed that saving on to the scheme. In the future, if the school is able to offer further subsidy to the scheme and pass on other cost savings, then we will.

Which lessons will iPads be used in and for how many hours per day?

There is no set rule on which lessons and for how long the iPads will be used. Our approach is simple - where the iPad can improve the learning and enhance the teaching, it should be used. For example, we anticipate that the bulk of maths practice will be done on the iPad because of the instant feedback, support and personalisation it offers. There will be no reduction in the amount of time pupils spend being more active in lessons during the school day.

Are teachers being forced to use the iPads?

Far from it. Our teachers have embraced the iPads and how they have transformed their lessons this year. As with anything new, there has been a steep learning curve but teachers have engaged really well with the opportunities afforded by the iPads. The most frequent comment from our staff this year has been 'I wish I had access to the iPads every day'.

Teachers have attended hours of training and the school has committed to continuing this training next year and beyond. All teachers have gained the Apple Teacher qualification and some have begun training for the Apple Coach qualification.