

Come back stronger.

Student devices at Norton Junior School

Parents' Guide



NORTON JUNIOR SCHOOL IS PART OF THE XP TRUST

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At Norton Junior School:

We support and challenge students to be leaders of their own learning

We pull down the barriers to learning, ensuring social equity

We encourage creativity; respectful, individual expression

Our approach to technology mirrors this, and therefore, launching in November 2020 for the New Year 2021, we would like all students to have their own appropriate device to support learning at home and school.

During the extended period of lockdown, it has become clear through your feedback and our experience as educators just how essential access to technology is for pupils learning and this can only intensify in the future.

As we all know, technology continues to improve, and we are now highly recommending the latest iPads as the best solution, which gives them access to Google Docs and many creative apps such as iMovie, GarageBand. We believe that iPads are now the best pound-for-pound and versatile device for your child's learning.

To enable this to happen for our students, we have created a great value parental contribution scheme which offers all our parents affordable access to 2 base packages with a range of payment terms to suit:

Option 1

**An iPad with a keyboard case
with trackpad**

Example: £16.00 a month over 3 years

Option 2

**An iPad with a keyboard case
with trackpad & Apple Pencil**

Example: £18.50 a month over 3 years**

Option 1 is more than adequate for primary school age children

Both packages come with comprehensive insurance with accidental damage covered and no excess. If a device is lost or stolen, it cannot be used, re-purposed or reformatted by anyone else.

This cost to parents is significantly cheaper than if you were to buy them from a shop (roughly 20% cheaper), and you get to spread the cost over either 12, 24 or 36 months. After this time, the iPad is yours to do with as you wish.

The iPads are managed by the school, which means that during school time, only apps needed for school will be available. Out of school, any other apps can be installed by students but they will not be available from 8am to 5pm on school days. During the evenings, weekends and holidays, you can use your iPad freely. If, after 3 years, students continue to bring the iPad to school, it will continue to be managed by school. Otherwise, it will become a normal iPad.

** The Apple Pencil is designed for artists who need pressure sensitivity and tilt. If you want to buy a cheaper pencil, the Logitech Crayon supports tilt but not pressure sensitivity for about £60. You can find an even cheaper option with 'palm-rejection' from Amazon for about £25 which allows you to rest your hand on the iPad while writing. Cheaper ones without palm rejection just act like your finger, but with more accuracy.

**Insurance!?!?!
Relax... you're
covered!**

All packages come with comprehensive insurance including accidental damage with no excess to pay. If a device is lost or stolen, it cannot be used, re-purposed or reformatted by anyone else, it becomes useless.

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Expectations of every student

Students are expected to have an appropriate device at school everyday, and for it to be available and working at every session as part of their standard equipment.

Devices will be checked along with the other equipment during crew each morning. Their device will be stored safely in the classroom during lunchtime and breaks before being returned to them at the end of the day to take home.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure their device is in school, charged up and working. Support will be available for students struggling to do this.

Other appropriate devices

While the latest iPad is the ideal device for students, there are other appropriate devices:

- ChromeBooks, which cost about £250-350+, are good workhorses, but do not have as many creative features.
- Apple Macbooks are more powerful, but are more much expensive and less versatile than the iPads
- Windows based machines, while flexible, are vulnerable to attack and more complex to maintain.

In each school, we have Apple Mac computers for students to do any bespoke, high-end work that these devices are better for, such as high-end video, music and graphic production.

While some work can technically be completed on mobile phones or other related devices, they do not offer all the functionality and power of iPads, such as being able to edit Google Sites, so phones cannot be a student's permanent device, nor would we want them in school unless pre-arranged in advance for specific reasons. While students will continue to be allowed to bring phones into school in special circumstances they should be handed in to the office first thing in the morning.

If students do not have their device for whatever reason, they are expected to work using alternate methods, and catch up in an appropriate manner.

All the above reasons are why from November 2020, we are highly recommending the use of iPads for all students. While it may be possible for you to use existing ipads, they would need to be added to the Trust's administration system and this would require a subscription. Furthermore, any 4G device with its own connectivity would not be permitted

Digital leaders for students

From Spring 2021, we will provide support sessions on the new features of iPads that allow students to use them as creative tools for learning.

The Trust will start a 'digital leaders' programme for students who want to support both staff and students on the use of their iPads - more information will become available in the New Year.

Legacy devices

For the time being, we will continue to use school devices to support your children in the building, however, there are not enough devices for every child and before long, this option will not be available as we do not plan to replace these devices.

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How do I buy my iPad?

This offer
is for all
students in
every year!

You can purchase any package now or find information from:

<https://njsch.uk/office/ipads>

or via this QR code:



<https://edutech.click/NJS-iPad-Scheme>

This offer is available now and runs till 6pm on November the 30th for devices to be delivered directly to your home in time for the start of the New Year.

Support may be available for parents who may struggle to provide a device for their child. Parents should contact the office initially who will be able to advise further on this matter.

This parental scheme has been made possible through the work of the Birmingham e-Learning Foundation and our commercial partner, GBM Digital Technologies.



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