

## FAQs on the Pilot Stephenian Technology eProgramme (STeP)

### **1. What is Stephenian Technology Programme (STeP)?**

The Stephenian Technology eProgramme (*STeP*) is our school's initiative to enhance the learning experience of our Stephenians and with the following goals:

- 1) Increase engagement in learning
- 2) Empower students to be self-directed
- 3) Enable collaboration among learners
- 4) Enhance thinking skills
- 5) Extend learning beyond the curriculum

The intention is to strengthen and enrich our students' learning; to spark and harness greater curiosity, deepen content, skills and perspectives, develop a self-directed, collaborative approach in their quest of knowledge, and at the same time, being very cognizant of our students learning styles today as digital natives.

### **2. How is teaching and learning in *STeP* classes?**

Students has an iPad each and access learning through the device, both in and out of the classroom. There will be a balance of iPad and conventional learning activities, online and offline blended learning for the students to manage appropriate and comfortable screen time.

Teachers will establish proper use and routines for the boys when using of the iPads. Lessons are a blend of both ICT using iPads and print hardcopy textbooks, workbooks, worksheets and hardcopy tests etc. Teachers will require students to complete handwritten hardcopy work and continue to provide activities for them to practice and develop of their writing capability.

Students will access Student Learning Space (SLS), Student iCON, internet sites and applications for their learning. Teaching and learning of all Primary 4 curriculum subjects will involve the use of iPads at least once for every topic. This may involve introduction activities, practice activities or summarising and synthesising activities. They may have research topics, digital worksheets, collaborative tasks etc.

### **3. What is the frequency of the use of iPads in school?**

Based on 2022, iPad use for learning is incorporated at least once for every topic. School is mindful of screen time and conscientiously strike a balance when providing opportunities for the students to acquire the ICT baseline skills to be future ready.

#### **4. What iPad model should I get for my son to use in school?**

We recommend that you consider purchasing the following items from any vendor of your choosing;

- iPad (10.2-inch) 64GB WiFi
- 2 Year AppleCare plus Protection Plan
- Protective Case
- Apple Pencil or Logitech Crayon

For product information please visit <https://www.apple.com/sg/ipad/>

#### **4.1 Can my son use of his existing iPad, instead of buying the new iPad Wifi 64GB?**

If you wish to use your existing iPad, please do note that it has to meet the minimum specifications of iPad that supports iOS15.

#### **4.2 What about repairs of the iPads?**

You can purchase Apple Care for your son's iPad. It covers hardware coverage, provides repair or replacement coverage, both parts and labour, from Apple authorised technicians at a cost depending on the damage.

#### **4.3 What happens when my son's iPad is lost or stolen?**

You can purchase additional insurance coverage for the iPad. So far, our boys are responsible and took good care of their iPads.

#### **4.4 Can my son use an iPad Mini?**

We do not recommend the iPad Mini due to its limited screen space which presents difficulties for your child's eye health and might also make it challenging for your child to use during lessons.

#### **5. How can school and parents manage child's screen time and use of iPad for games and social media?**

The school uses Mosyle Mobile Device Management (MDM) to manage your child's learning device in school.

Mobile device management is a software that allows the iPad to be supervised by parents and teachers. During school hours, the device will be under school management. After school hours, parents will have the ability to decide how the students will use the devices.

**During School hours: from 7am to 2pm, Mondays to Fridays**

The school will be restricting the iPads to only school approved apps used for learning and activities. Teachers can monitor the student's screen in class to ensure they are on task and not access the games or social media sites that are not recommended.

Non-essential apps and personal apps will be hidden during this period (they are not deleted, but hidden and unusable).

**After school hours: from 2pm onwards, Monday to Friday and non-school day, 24 hours**

Parents are encouraged to use the Screen Guide app to manage the student iPad outside of school hours. The school settings will be lifted and students may access their personal apps on the iPads.

With the Screen Guide app, parents may block device use, limit app usage and restrict access to App Store or web browsers.

The MDM software, estimated cost of \$22 per year is an online service which will be added to the school bill. MDM will enable teachers to monitor that students are on assigned tasks when using iPads during lessons in class.

Please refer to school website for Screen Guide.

**7. Will school provide charging port for my son to charge his iPad in school?**

The school aims to develop in our students to be responsible and take good care of their belongings. Students are encouraged to come to school with their iPads charged. However, there is a charging port in the classroom for students to charge his iPad if the battery runs very low.

**8. Will school provide locker facility in school for my son to keep his iPad in school?**

Students need to take home their iPads daily to charge their iPads at home daily. Thus there is no need for locker facility to keep iPad in school.

**9. Will my son be at risk of cyber threat when using the iPad?**

The school continuously educates our students on Cyber Wellness during CCE(FTGP). We will also continue to collaborate with parents to educate our students on cyber threats. Students will also endorse a Student Agreement on the appropriate behaviours when using the iPads for learning.

**10. How can my son apply for subsidy to purchase an iPad to use for STeP?**

Parents can download the application for financial assistance at the school website. More details given at school website.