

History of the Cluster Parent Funded 1 to 1 Macbook

The school was committed to be a technology leading school from its inception in 2005. The school quickly became a technology rich school – we provided interactive whiteboards and projectors for classrooms, cameras, Macbooks were purchased for student use.

Quote from school vision statement 2005 / 06

Ashdale Primary School will be technology smart and technology rich. Embedded technology in all teaching and learning programs using a strong pedagogical base will encourage transparent and effective learning outcomes. An on-line networked learning community will provide flexible delivery of a variety of learning opportunities. Students, staff and the community will be skilled in the effective use of all learning technologies.

With the opening of Ashdale Secondary College in 2009, and the commitment from them to be a technology leader school, the impetus was there for the 3 cluster schools to explore options to collectively offer and provide opportunities for our students to learn in a technology rich environment.

The schools identified that the challenge for all schools was to bridge the gap between the changing learning needs of today's young people and the state or national curricular and assessment requirements. That challenge still presents today.

The cluster embarked on a journey of research to determine the best possible way of providing this opportunity for the students. Committees comprising admin, staff and parents were formed and timelines were developed. Cluster committees visited both government and private schools to view their programs and learn from their experiences.

After extensive research it was determined that an Apple device would best meet the needs of the students, their families and the schools. This quote from parent communication at that time explains why Macbooks -

The MacBooks are particularly well suited to the education environment because they have hardy, strong casings that protect the machine for the bumps of every day use. They are loaded with software and applications that are great for getting students to think outside the box and create innovative projects, and allow teachers to deliver engaging lessons. The MacBooks have excellent options for security, protecting students while accessing the internet at school and at home.

As we move forward and in keeping with the cluster vision of embedding technology, the One to One program enables students to learn the important skills that are essential to maximise their potential in a 21st Century classroom and workplace.

They have, at the point of need, access to information, applications and global experiences that enable deeper learning at home and at school.

Students who do not have their own Macbook, have a level of access to school owned machines during school hours.

Benefits of the voluntary parent funded program identified in 2010, that hold true today -

- The school realises that it had now freed up funds to spend on ICT infrastructure – wireless, servers etc
- Teaching with ICT to add value to teaching and learning can now occur without excuse. i.e. The statement, “we only have a couple of computers....” is void.
- The traditional role of the school network changes as students no longer have to log-in to a networked home directory - the student’s data is always with them.
- Schools continually grapple with how to handle the general growth of multi-media files and how to save larger projects. A one-to-one programme takes this concern away as the students always have the computer with them.
- Those schools concerned about vandalism of ICT equipment quickly realise that students would likely show greater care for computers if they owned them.