



Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School

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10th December 2015.

BYODD Initiative in 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware we have sought to engage with you over the last number of weeks about our vision for 21st century learning, and specifically our proposed BYODD initiative flagged to start in 2016.

The Dialogue to Date

The process has included a great deal of discourse including:

- *The launch of our document "Our Vision for Learning in the 21st Century".*
- *Our well attended parent evening on 10th November which included showcasing of work from pilot classes, information from Catholic Schools Office & ourselves and initial parent feedback in group forums.*
- *"Coffee and Conversation" opportunities held on three separate mornings when a more directed and intimate discussion occurred for those in attendance*
- *The 'Parent Voice' feedback document launched on 18th November.*
- *An independent and extensive parent voice feedback survey conducted by MMG (Education).*

We have also sought to ensure parents have been invited to make time to speak with us at any time during this process and this of course will continue as we journey together next year.

The Recommendation

The MMG survey results have been looked at closely. We had a strong response rate of well over half our families and a significant majority of those completing the surveys have expressed their support and confidence in our BYODD initiative to commence next year. There was a range of supportive feedback within this large majority group, and there is a large degree of confidence and support for the school in seeking these steps. Essentially the recommendation from MMG is the **"school is well placed to proceed with this initiative to begin in 2016"**.

We very much respect there are parents within our community (55 in total from the survey) who have reservations. Through the survey we are able to acknowledge that some of this group have engaged with the information that has been made available and still have concerns. In these cases, we do very much respect your uncertainties and want to reassure you that many legitimate fears have been raised. Although we have foreseen many of them and will have strategies in place, we will continue to listen and factor these concerns into our directions during 2016.

Again through the survey we can also acknowledge that there is a substantial group of parents within the 55 who have either stated they have not accessed the information made available, or done so in a limited manner. We would strongly encourage all to review the considerable information, as many questions are answered and addressed. In all cases, we commit to working with you next year and beyond to support student learning achievement – and measuring this success both through the BYODD initiative – and in other measures.

Partnership with Professor Helen Timperley (University of Auckland)

We are delighted to announce that in conjunction with Catholic Schools Office Broken Bay we have engaged [Professor Helen Timperley PhD, MA \(Hons\), DipEdPsych, DipTchg](#), Professor of Education from the University of Auckland to work closely with us to determine and publish to our community the learning gains for our students, and evaluation of the BYODD initiative. This in fact will not be limited to the work with iPads, but will be a close examination of our professional learning model and the value to student learning of all our strategies. Professor Timperley is well known to Broken Bay Catholic Schools and her framework through a "Cycles of Inquiry" approach to professional learning is utilised by many of our schools. Professor Timperley's connection to our school in 2016 to examine and report on student learning gains is a huge and esteemed opportunity for OLSOS, and one which we should look forward to with great anticipation. Parents will hear more of this in 2016.

The Practical Steps of acquiring iPads for Learning.

As stated in the document "Our Vision for Learning in the 21st Century", if your child is in Year 4 or 5 in 2016, he or she will need their own iPad. Year 6 is optional only and we will have a number of devices in those classes to support and ensure there is no culture of 'haves' or 'have nots'. Please refer to "Our Vision for the 21st Century" p17.

Parents will have the option to purchase through the school in the New Year in a one off inclusion on their school fees invoice. Alternatively, parents may wish to purchase their own, or utilise one they already have – as long as it is of the prescribed specs on page 17 of "Our Vision for Learning in the 21st Century". **The minimum specs are iPad Air 32G or iPad Air 2 64G.** It is also important students get a heavy duty cover (which also protects corners) and headphones. All these will be available when purchasing through the school.

We have published updated (slightly lower than previous) pricing below for parents who wish to be invoiced which will enable choices to be made between now and when school resumes. The school will need all iPads by **March 7** so that configuration will take place. We will notify parents as to when they should be brought to school.

Prices for Parents who Purchase through the school (School Fees Invoice) are as follows:

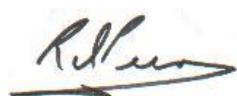
iPad Air Wi Fi - Ex GST * \$510	Incl GST ** \$561
iPad Air 2 Wi Fi - Ex GST * \$675	Incl GST ** \$742.50
Apple Care+ for iPad – Ex GST *\$95	Incl GST ** \$104.50
Heavy Duty Cover - \$64.99 GST Incl	

* Ex GST – The school will technically still own the iPad for a period of two years (or if you leave the school earlier) when a transfer of ownership occurs to the parent. For all practical purposes the iPad will work in the same way as owned and transfer between home and school.

** Incl GST – The parent fully owns the iPad immediately when ordered and purchased through the school fee invoice. (Both options will be available on the parent portal to be made available when school returns).

Parents are welcome to make choices as to whether purchases are made through the school at the above prices – or separately through retailers if you feel you can get better value. As also stated, any family experiencing financial hardship is asked to contact Mr Peers for a respectful and discreet appointment to work to an agreement around affordability. We very much respect that as we embark on the new directions for learning, this change is a serious commitment and outlay for our families. As already stated, the decision to proceed has not been taken lightly and we are confident of the value to all our children in their learning. We also commit to continue a close and ongoing dialogue with our parents and carers, our children's first educators as we embark on the work ahead to support our children.

With every good wish,



Mr Robert Peers, Principal.