

What is TPAT Advantage?

TPAT Advantage is first and foremost a teaching and learning project. It is intended to give our teachers and pupils the very best digital tools available to support them in their work and in their learning.

Staff and pupils will benefit from having access to the latest iPad devices which will enable them to access bespoke applications designed to support their learning both in the classroom and at home. It will also give parents unprecedented insights into their child's learning journey as well as the ability to further support their progress.

The ultimate aim of our schools is, as always, to improve outcomes and opportunities for our young people, and to help prepare them for the future.



Why do we need Advantage?

Advantage is based on a belief that educational provision in the 21st Century must adapt in order benefit from and reflect the digital revolution which impacted upon almost every aspect of life in the UK. Our children are 'digital natives', they were born into a digital world. Schools have to embrace the best of these digital opportunities, whilst educating our young people to function, thrive and live safely in this new world.

There are also local drivers for this project. We live and learn in one of the most beautiful counties in the UK. However, the socio-economic reality for many of our families is one characterised by significant hardship and disadvantage. We recognise that across our Trust there are many communities where low income, poor employment opportunities, comparatively low levels of investment and educational funding as well as geographical and cultural remoteness - all negatively impact upon the life choices our young people are able to make.

The Advantage Project is a key part of our strategy to combat these challenges and to help our young people to have the best possible opportunities both now and in their future lives.



Why are we spending money on this?

Introducing leading edge digital technologies into TPAT schools does have a significant financial cost and represents a commitment to ensure that our pupils have the best learning experience we can offer. That said, capital expenditure on IT hardware, apps and infrastructure has been part of the annual school budgeting expectations for many years. By adopting a strategic and common trust wide strategy we gain significant savings in terms of the economies that can be achieved through bulk purchasing of hardware, training and infrastructure support.

There are additional savings to be made for schools, these include significantly reduced photocopying/printing budget as having a 1:1 device and the Showbie App removes much of the need for this.

How will children stay safe online?

The key to staying safe online is to understand the risks and how to manage them. We therefore spend a lot of time in school helping children to develop the skills required to stay safe in the digital world.

In addition, we have put in place advanced and secure filtering and monitoring systems which enables us to control all internet use on the iPads, even when the device is being used at home.

We are however mindful that no filtering and monitoring system is ever 100% safe. We would therefore ask that parents remain vigilant and conscious of how their children are interacting with the online world, whether on a school iPad, a home device or a mobile phone.

Will this mean even more screen time?

We fully understand that some parents may be concerned that providing children with iPads will mean that they spend their whole day looking at a screen. This is simply not the case.

We will ensure that lessons continue to have a balance of activities. Children will continue to have exercise book, to do group work, practical and physical activities and have time away from the screen. This wide range of teaching approaches is a fundamental part of our educational provision and will not change.

In school the iPad is an educational tool and is used under the teacher's direction. This means that children will not be spending prolonged periods of time staring at the screen.

Why are the iPads being sent home ?

By having access to the iPad out of school we believe that students will be able to continue to learn home. Teachers will be able to support pupils via apps like Showbie, to build upon lessons in school as well as enhancing the effectiveness of homework and employing pre-teaching activities.

In addition, the device at home will also allow parents to have a much better understanding of what their children are learning, and be in a far stronger position to support this learning at home.

Is this the end of exercise books?

Absolutely not, we are very clear that children will still be using exercise books. There will continued our emphasis on developing students' writing and reading skills. Students will still be expected to work using pen and paper and we will ensure working in this way remains an educational priority in TPAT schools.



What happens if the iPad is lost or stolen?

The iPads are unattractive to thieves because the school's management system controls them remotely: this means we can track and close down any iPad reported missing. We will also be able to locate any lost iPad via the tracking. Typically schools who have given students iPads have seen extremely low levels of loss and theft. Again, we expect students to take good care of their iPad and to respect the investment made by the school in their education. If an iPad is lost or stolen, this must be reported immediately to the school.

What happens if the iPad is broken?

We expect pupils to take good care of their iPad and to respect the level of investment that the school is making in their education. We provide a strong case with the iPad to minimise damage. The iPad must be kept in this case at all times and students must not remove the case, or replace it with an alternative case. Any damage must be reported to the school immediately. The replacement/ repair of a damaged iPad is heavily subsidised by the school however we may request a parental contribution towards this cost in some circumstances. We do ask for the support of all our parents in minimising damage: otherwise we will be wasting our valuable funding on costs which could have been avoided.

Parents must not arrange for their own repair as this will void the school's warranty.

What will Advantage look like?

All Advantage teachers and pupils will have the latest iPad to use at school and at home. The project is based around a number of principles that teachers will follow these include:

1. Teachers will be able to use the iPad for **direct instruction and modelling** in lessons using their LCD screen and **Apple TV** and an app called **Explain Everything**. This is really powerful, not least as it means that teachers can easily record and share their instruction quickly and easily with their class. This allows pupils to revisit parts of the teaching they may have missed or require clarification on.
2. Teachers will have an app called **Apple Classroom** which enables them to monitor, control and share the screens of all pupils in their classroom.
3. Try using an app called **Showbie** teachers will be able to set work, and **feedback** on pupils work in a way which has never before been possible using voice notes and instructional screen recordings bespoke to an individual child.
4. An app called **Socrative** will allow teachers to complete **assessments** at the beginning, during and at the end of lessons providing invaluable information to gauge understanding.
5. Teachers will use the vast range of **accessibility features** built into the iPad to support individual pupil's physical, language and learning needs.

Other FAQs

Will my child be able to download apps themselves?

No, the devices and the apps available to them are controlled by an advanced device management system called Jamf.

How can I control use of the iPad at home?

Parents are best placed to make decisions about how much screen time their children should have in the evenings. In order to support parents and to help to manage the temptation for extended iPad use, our device management system will enable us to disable the iPads at 7pm for Primary aged children and 9pm for secondary pupils,

What happens if the iPads run out of charge during the day?

iPads have enough battery life to be able to last throughout the school day. Students must ensure that their iPad is charged overnight, at home and brought into school every day with a minimum charge of 80% please

What happens during evenings, weekends and school holidays?

The iPads will be available for use by our students during evenings (for homework) and weekends. Parents will have their own rules about how technology is used in their homes and can set their own limits on use. The school management system will be used to switch off the iPads as described above. The iPads will need to be returned to school during some holiday periods for upgrades and routine maintenance.

Will I need to upgrade at my home internet package?

It is likely that children will want to use their iPad linked to home Internet connections. If families do not have the internet at home students can download what they need when they are in school and work 'offline' when they are at home. We do not expect any families will need to change their broadband to accommodate our school iPads.

