

# Classroom management with the tablets

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There are number of ways the use of the tablets affect the classroom management required by the teacher.

## Advantages:

- Student can work independently, and additional activities can be provided electronically for advanced students to complete. Can allow students to work more at their own pace and extend brighter students.

## Problems:

The following table summarises some of the classroom management issues which relate to using the tablets in the classroom.

| Problem                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Possible solutions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Time consumed by getting tablets / logging in and saving work / logging out. Even with no technical issues, this can take up to 15 minutes out of a 55 minute lesson. With technical issues, this can take longer.</li></ul>                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allocate tablets to students which they carry with them while at school. This would reduce the time lost in getting tablets out and putting away, and students wouldn't need to log on.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical problems with the tablets (students unable to log in / use stylus / battery flat etc.) majorly disrupt the flow of the lesson and prevent students from working. This causes significant loss of teaching and learning time. For many activities, there must be at least a one to one ratio of working tablets to students.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure all tablets are fully functioning prior to use. This includes batteries, stylus, connectivity, etc.</li><li>• Allocate tablets to students which they carry with them while at school. This would mean students could be made responsible for the maintenance of their device and ensuring it is fully functioning.</li><li>• Technical staff available during lessons to immediately solve technical problems. This would obviously involve a large staffing commitment, but would reduce the teaching time lost.</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student difficulties with navigating and using the OS, as well as saving and accessing work often require specific one-on-one help which is difficult in a whole class situation.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide students with specific time and lessons on learning how to use the tablets, outside the subject classroom.</li><li>• Allocate tablets to students which they carry with them while at school. This would mean students would have more time across the board to learn how to use the devices effectively. This would be further improved by allowing them to take them home.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students are distracted by the tablets and can work off-task drawing pictures, using internet etc.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Install screen viewing software such as DyKnow or AB Tutor to monitor student work.</li><li>• Ensure a 'tablets down, stylus down' approach is used when required (so not <i>all</i> work is screen-based).</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current cases require the tablets to be turned before putting them away – this adds an additional task for the students to do, consuming time, or is a large task for the teacher after the lesson.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose alternate cases when making further purchases.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student frustration with the tablets results in a reluctance to use the devices.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student training needs to be built into programing. However this impinges on covering curriculum outcomes in time compared to other classes working on laptops.</li> <li>• Any new device or software requires time to learn the functions and shortcuts.</li> <li>• The tablets not functioning efficiently in the first 3 weeks created a barrier in students embracing the technology wholeheartedly. Reluctance to interact with the software, problems with connecting, physical access to getting the tablet on the desk – up and running, dropping out so the teacher couldn't see I've done the work and problems with touch screens and pens not working lowered enthusiasm to use the tablet.</li> <li>• Comparisons with other tablets on the market connectivity and the expectation of it is an ICT device – 'it should work' 100% all the time was a theme common with all students.</li> </ul> |