Bring your own technology

TIMBOON P-12 School students and staff have embraced a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy.

Students have been using a variety of technology including iPads, tablets, netbooks and laptops to enhance their learning.

The new policy introduced this year not only allows students to use the technology during class, but encourages their use.

Year 6 teacher Kylie Orr said 20 of the 23 students in her class had an iPad.

"The students in her class who do not have an iPad either had a netbook or used the class iPad.

As well as using the technology for classwork, more traditional methods were still used to ensure a breadth of knowledge and understanding on a chosen topic.

"Every single class we try and find a way to enhance our learning through technology," Ms Orr said.

"We try and use a diverse range of apps.

"They’ve adapted quite well (to the policy), it’s been fabulous."

Ms Orr said the BYOD policy allowed teachers to closely monitor students’ progress.

"If a child is struggling in some areas there’s some great apps to encourage learning," she said.

"It makes teaching and learning more efficient.

"The thing that’s really good about them is they’re so light you can carry them."

Students were quick to praise the use of the policy as well.

Shelby Gristedde said she enjoys using her iPad during class time.

"It’s very good," she said.

"We use it quite a lot in class. We have certain apps we have to download."

Charlie Trotter agreed and said he liked how easy the technology was to use.

"You can use it at school and at home," he said.

"I think it’s good because it’s quicker and you can understand it easier."

Students have been using a program called ‘Edmodo’ which links them together with the ability to access a private chatroom for their classroom as well as being able to communicate with their teacher and complete homework online.

Sarah Randle said she liked using Edmodo because it was private.

Students in Year 3 onwards participate in the BYOD policy.

Year 7 co-ordinator Lisa Kenait said students have really embraced the policy.

She said she had already experienced positive results because of the policy.

"They can hand in their homework through Edmodo which allows instant feedback," Ms Kenait said.

"I’ve found we have a much higher percentage of students doing their homework."

"It’s just so easy. We’re all learning together."

Students have found a variety of uses for their personal learning devices including research, photo work, language translation and creating crossword.

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