FALKNER HOUSE
LONDON

Go To Guide iPad Programme

2026 - 2027





Boys

20 Penywern Road, London SW5 9SU

Girls

19 Brechin Place, London SW7 4QB

Go To Guide iPad Programme

At Falkner House we aim to develop independent learning and problem-solving skills, preparing pupils for an ever-changing technological world. When pupils enter Year 4 parents are asked to buy a school iPad Air and Apple Pencil Pro which will be used at Falkner House until the end of Year 6.

Falkner House has spent years collating all the best resources and information into personalised iBook textbooks which further the learning and show the way in which the topic has been taught and demonstrate different learning methods, techniques and skills. These iBooks are released to the children throughout the year. If a pupil is absent from a lesson they can easily catch up by reviewing these books.

Benefits For Pupils

- Do not have to carry around a bag full of heavy exercise and text books.
- Homework is posted so that pupils are never unsure what work has been set.
- Pupils have everything they need in one place. Worksheets, extracts from books etc. are easily stored on the iPad and can be accessed at any time and kept for revision purposes.
- If a pupil is absent they will still receive homework notifications and so can catch up at home if appropriate. They are also able to read through the relevant iBook textbook for any lessons they may have missed.
- Work is backed up so can never be lost and is readily available in Goodnotes.
- The iBooks allow pupils to revisit topics, explore them in more depth if they are interested and provide all the relevant research so that pupils do not need to waste time searching for information before beginning homework.
- Problem solving skills, folder organisation and a general understanding of technology is developed.
- Pupils have the ability to zoom in to worksheets or text for easier reading.

Benefits For Parents

- The iPad provides a link between the school and home allowing parents to have instant access to pupil exercise books at all time.
- Parents can see clear homework instructions so that they understand what their children are being asked to do.
- The Goodnotes textbooks enable parents to see how a teacher teaches, for example, there is a step by step guide for every maths problem. Pupils can also show parents what has been learnt in a particular lesson.
- Parents have access to all tests, model answers and worksheets used during the lesson.

Benefits for teachers

- Basic tasks can waste time: handing out and collecting in exercise books, handing out worksheets, cutting and sticking work into books, replacing glue sticks and dealing with the inevitable problems of not enough coloured pencils, pencils that need to be sharpened, the lack of a sharpener, the loss of an eraser!
- Using the iPads is a huge time saver: work is instantly handed out, worksheets don't have to be stuck in and stationery, or lack of, is no longer an issue. Teachers are thus gaining precious quality teaching time.
- Despite the utmost care, occasionally pupil work on loose sheets of paper or exercise books can get lost or have liquid spilt on them.
- Having all the exercise books on the iPads makes it much easier to access and mark pupil work.
- Because written work is completed on the iPad, teachers can use an app which allows them to view all the class iPads at the same time and see pupil work in real time. This means that teachers can instantly see if pupils are not completing a piece of work correctly or if they are producing work of excellence. Work can then instantly be mirrored onto the board to model for the pupils.

Method

- The app Showbie is used to distribute homework and supplementary resources.
- The app GoodNotes is used to share class exercise books, which are kept in "classrooms". Within these classrooms teachers are able to organise subject content by year and by term.
- Split screen can be used to view information in two different apps at the same time. This is accessed by dragging a finger from one side of the screen until a line appears and adjusted as needed.
- Google Drive is used to store pupil work and allows pupil work to be accessed by staff members.
- Safari is used for research, accessing online platforms such as Atom School, MyMaths, Times Tables Rock Stars, Britannica, and NRich Maths.
- The app Books is used for subject textbooks and resources.

Screen Time

- Can be broken down into 'entertainment' and 'working' screen time.
- 'Entertainment' includes watching videos, playing games or using apps where media is being consumed. This creates significant changes in brain chemistry, most notably, in the release of dopamine. 'Dopamine' is produced when we see something that is interesting or new, but also has a second function. Dopamine is also the neurochemical involved in most addictions – it's the reward chemical. Its use should thus be strictly limited as too much can result in children not getting enough exercise, losing the ability to concentrate and, when consumed close to bedtime, the brain being so overstimulated that children find it hard to sleep.
- 'Working' screen time includes, typing, writing or reading on the iPad. As long as the lighting is correct, these activities are the same (in terms of focus, eye strain and brain activity) as reading a hard copy of a book, or writing in an exercise book. The majority of screen use for our pupils is 'working' screen time.

Light

- Blue light. iPads, LED lights and most electronic devices produce blue light similar to sunlight. These blue wavelengths are beneficial during daylight hours boosting attention, reaction times and mood. Blue light is 'bad' before going to sleep. If exposed to blue light in the evening one is tricked into thinking that it is daytime; getting to sleep becomes more difficult.



FAQs

Will all work be completed on the iPad?

Where pupils previously used exercise books, these exercise books are now on the iPad.

Is writing on the iPad different to writing on a piece of paper?

Much testing has shown us that the experience of writing on paper is accurately replicated on the iPad and Apple Pencil. Pupils are able to rest their hands on the iPad while writing and can even put a ruler on the screen to draw a line. Pupils are required to maintain the iPad in portrait mode and only zoom is reduced to the margins of the page so that the paper size is accurately represented and handwriting remains neat and tidy.

Will my child do any work with a normal pen?

Pupils will still complete some work with normal stationery, in art, when completing exam work or if a teacher feels work needs to be completed on paper. By Year 5 most pupils have developed the fine motor skills needed to write neatly with a pen or pencil, to underline with a ruler and to take stationary in and out of a pencil case. If, at any time a teacher feels that a pupil is writing any differently to how they would write on paper, they are asked to write on paper and scan it in instead.

What happens if the iPad runs out of battery?

Pupils are asked to plug their iPad in every night and the battery lasts all day. If the battery was not charged for any reason there are charging cables in the classroom. Year 4 keep their iPads in school, with ipads being charged at school overnight.

What happens if the Apple Pencil runs out of battery?

The Apple Pencil charges very quickly and pupils can see how much charge it has. Pupils are encouraged to plug them into their iPads during break time. If they run out during a lesson or when completing homework they continue on paper and scan it in.

How will my child have their exercise book and textbook page open at the same time?

Pupils can use split screen to view two apps at once. If this does not work for them they can have the textbook or worksheet open on the iPad and write on paper and then scan it in

How can parents monitor homework?

In Showbie parents can view all pupil assignments and the date they are due. Assignments will often have attachments showing the work to be completed or will reference the relevant class exercise book. Some parents like to sit down with their child and go through homework. If you want to look at a particular worksheet while they work in their book, you could ask your child to complete the work on paper so that you can view the sheet on the iPad. Alternatively, parents can airdrop any relevant documents to their device or print them out.

How to print documents from the iPad?

Any documents can be printed from the iPad using a wireless printer. Alternatively, documents can be airdropped to another device or accessed through your child's Goodnotes account on a desktop.

I'm worried about my child's eyesight

Too much close up work, whether it is writing in an exercise book, drawing, and reading a book can lead to eye strain. At school, pupils are encouraged to look up after every 20 minutes and focus on something in the distance for a few seconds. Frequent breaks will lessen the chance of eye strain. It is very important when completing close up work, be it on the iPad or any other type of close up work, to ensure that the ambient lighting is correct. It is important that whenever close up work is being completed the room is well lit and, when using iPads, the ambient light should not be significantly brighter or dimmer than the screen light. Glare from sunlight on a screen means that an iPad should be turned away from the sun.

I'm worried about posture

When pupils work at school they spend a significant portion of the time writing in an exercise book. This causes pupils to lean over and can cause shoulder or back pain. Whenever pupils are in a classroom they are encouraged to sit properly at their desk, no crossed legs, backs straight, arms in their laps or on the desk. After sitting for any significant period of time at home or school pupils should stand up and stretch. When working on the iPad, it should, where possible, be put on the table or on a stand rather than held.

Not all 11+ exams will be written on an iPad, how will my child be prepared for these?

Any tests, comprehensions, English creative tests, science tests etc. will all be completed on paper exactly as they will be taken in the 11+ exams. They will be scanned into the relevant book when completed so that parents have access to all tests taken.

My child says their hand hurts after writing an exam with a normal pencil?

When pupils enter Year 5 and 6 they will be writing more practice exam papers. Writing at intensity for a long period of time has always caused hands to ache – thankfully a few minutes rest and it is back to normal!

Why isn't there a complete textbook?

Before iPads were introduced, one of the problems staff faced was pupils reading ahead through textbooks or parents trying to be helpful and teach ahead. Having electronic copies of the textbooks allows distribution of the relevant chapter at the relevant time.

Can parents see their child's exercise book without using their iPad?

Parents can log to Goodnotes via a web browser and sign in with your child's details (all pupils know their username and password for Google Drive). Within Goodnotes you are able to view your child's work and download the document to your laptop. At the end of the year, all workbooks are uploaded to Google Drive. Within Google Drive is a shared folder with your child's name where you can view the exercise books. This folder is used to back up your child's work from the iPad and also links to the staff computers. Parents should only view documents and not make any changes to the folder itself.

The iBook textbooks are full of information, are pupils expected to know all of this?

The iBooks are there as a resource and to extend pupils who want to know more. They demonstrate how a teacher explains a topic to a class. The maths textbooks contain Keynote presentations with worked examples of every maths problem so that if your child needs help with homework, you can use these to help teach them in the method they have learnt in class.

What happens if the iPad is damaged?

Any damage occurring on the school site will be covered by the school insurance. Damage caused at home would need to be covered under your home insurance.

Can my child use an existing family iPad/buy a second hand iPad?

We understand that buying an expensive new machine is annoying when one can purchase second hand for much less. However, we do have strong reasons for asking parents to purchase a new device. The Falkner House iPad program is phenomenal its' success is due to many factors principally, of course, how they are used by the Falkner House teachers, but other key factors are:

- All the tech for all of the children works properly 99.9% of the time. This means that the teachers spend minimal time resolving tech issues and the maximum time teaching. New machines are inevitably more reliable than second hand and, by the time children leave Year 6, their device will already have been heavily used over the three years.
- We purchase all the school iPads through our suppliers (the school itself gets no financial benefit). They are educational iPads that come enrolled on our device enrolment program.
- These iPads have a three-year warranty which is incredibly useful.

- We are able to ensure that all pupils have the same type of iPad, with the same software, same set up etc. which makes the classroom experience the best it can be for the girls and teachers alike.

Falkner House Policy in Context

Use of technology at Falkner House comes up in many different contexts: Please see the Tech at Home - Go to Guide as well as our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Consequences for misuse of technology: please see the Falkner House Behaviour Policy.
Falkner House policy has always been that if any issues arise at school from inappropriate access to technology, there will be consequences at school for that pupil. These consequences will typically be a temporary suspension from school in the first instance and if the offence happens is repeated, potentially permanent exclusion.