



Your introductory guide to 1:1

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Funding Technology

**Call** 0800 378 426 **Email** [quotes@equico.co.nz](mailto:quotes@equico.co.nz)

# Your guide to 1:1

With a 1:1 approach, the school chooses a device, for example an iPad, and deploys that device across a number of classrooms. Every student and teacher has the exact same device loaded with the exact same software. Here's what you need to consider:

## Infrastructure and network

Regardless of which mobile devices are being used, your school will likely require wireless network infrastructure upgrades to a more robust wireless network that can support all these new devices.

With that in mind a 1:1 approach does allow for a minimum standard which does help assist in a more equal level of connection across multiple devices connecting to the network.

**"The key is to know the abilities of the technology installed..."**

*(David Kinane- Interface Magazine)*

## Cost

Price is typically one of the biggest concerns for schools. Your school will likely require wireless network infrastructure upgrades to a more robust wireless network that can support all these new devices. This can be leased through Equico.

With 1:1, the school provides a device and accessories like protective covers for every user which can become expensive. However, by leasing with Equico you can pay for technology as you use it and avoid large capital outlay at the beginning.

## Ease of Use

With 1:1, device management is simple and everyone is using the same digital tools in the classroom. Even though initial training may be necessary for users with a new device like an iPad, most find it easier to integrate and use technology in the classroom when everyone is working with the same device. This means that teacher upskilling is easier too.

It's a good idea for the teachers to lease their devices a few months before the students begin using them, to ensure they are comfortable with the functionality and feel able to demonstrate usage.

## Equality

1:1 brings uniform integration of technology in every class which eliminates digital inequality. With 1:1 solutions the school won't have to worry about who doesn't and who does have the right devices, allowing all students to access the latest technology; promoting fairness regardless of demographic.

## Maintenance

With 1:1 there can be long-term maintenance costs for the school including upgrades and eventually completely replacing all the devices for newer ones. The school also has to commit to refreshing those devices every few years to keep up with maintenance requirements and improvements in technology. However with Equico, schools can rotate equipment and access 3 years of budget in one go to get everything they need from day one.

Adobe and Microsoft are starting to get their heads around **licensing for student one-to-one computing**, although BYOD is still a **bit of a problem** for them.

*(Joseph Sweeney - Nine Conversations for Successful BYOD Decision Making)*

## Apps and software

With 1:1, since everyone has the same mobile device and is on the same platform, teachers know whatever applications they use on their device will work on their students' devices.

## Your mobile learning approach

Make sure your chosen software will work with whatever mobile learning approach you have selected. Think through how the devices are going to fit into the classes and how you can get the most out of using them. It's important to incorporate the devices into the curriculum and have a robust strategy of the learning outcomes you are hoping to achieve through your approach.

## Security

Make sure you are aware of the process if any of your devices goes wrong or breaks. With Equico Equipment Protect, you are covered for repair or replacement of your device so you don't need to worry about the expense of fixing it yourself.

## Engage with the right stakeholders before making your decision

Principals, IT administrators, representatives from each teaching department, school administrators and even business managers will all have a part to play in mobile learning. It's worth getting their input before committing to your decision – they might put forward an alternative view for consideration that will influence your choice of device. Plus the device needs to be something that works for their needs as well.

## Research your decision

Before you give the go ahead you should consult other schools that have made the same choice. Understand where any issues occurred and how you can prevent them. One way of doing this could be to form a cluster, if you haven't already. Equico can provide leasing to clusters, enabling cost benefits as the equipment would be supplied in bulk, and it will also let you share ideas and insights with the other schools who are using the same or alternative equipment.

**“Transferring ownership of the device” (from schools to parents) “sometimes gets touted as a way to encourage students to take better care of the devices, but in this study, no one actually saw this relationship.”**

*(Joseph Sweeney - Nine Conversations for Successful BYOD Decision Making)*

## Don't rush into roll out. Only proceed when you feel ready.

Some schools have chosen to implement a combination of the BYOD and 1:1, providing some classrooms with devices and allowing others to BYOD. So there's really no right or wrong answer when it comes to which one is best. The choice depends on which solution fits your school's needs.

## SOURCES

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