

The Teaching and Learning Research Initiative (TLRI) 2015-16

Mobile technologies and learning in the primary school



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

What is a TLRI?

Contestable government-funded research grant managed by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research

Research partnership with schools. Focus on research to improve teaching practices within the school and nationally



How does it work?

Researchers (in this case, me!) working in schools alongside teachers and students

Data gathered and analysed related to a particular area of inquiry (in this case, mobile technologies like iPads)

Analysis used to explore nature of children's learning and improve teaching and assessment methods

Analysis reported via articles in national and international academic journals and a conference presentation

Milestones reported to Ministry of Education

What am I trying to find out?

1. What thinking and problem-solving skills do students apply and develop when using iPads and apps for a range of curriculum learning tasks?
2. What teaching, planning and management strategies support the effective use of iPads for learning purposes at primary school level?



What does it mean for my child?

Data will be collected in junior and senior classrooms while the children are completing normal learning activities using iPads, notebooks and Chromebooks

Focus 1 (terms 1 & 2): Computational thinking (programming, maths, language, technology)

Focus 2 (terms 3 & 4): Science (inquiry - probably physical or material world)

How will data be collected?

Display recorder app (on University-supplied iPads and notebooks)

Small group interviews (probably 4-5 children each, up to 30 minutes)

Digital photographs and/or short video clips (illustrative of children working in pairs/groups, mobile, different locations)

A short anonymous online survey exploring children's views of learning in the digitally-supported variable learning spaces (up to 20 minutes)



How will data be used?

A joint article published in an educational journal (SET: Research Information for Teachers; Computers in New Zealand Schools)

A research article published in an international eLearning journal (Computers & Education; British Journal of Educational Technology)

In contract milestones for the Ministry of Education

At a joint conference presentation/s

Will the research disrupt my child's learning?

In short, NO!

In fact, outcomes from the study are fed back to teachers to help improve their practices with the technology

If data from your child is used in articles or other reports pseudonyms will be used to ensure anonymity



What if I have any questions about the research?

You can call or email me at any time if you have any questions about the research

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