The Use of Tablets in UK Schools

A Research Report
September 2014
Techknowledge for Schools is a registered charity passionate about the transformative effect of tablets in the classroom and beyond. We bring together teachers, industry leaders and academics using robust and independent research on how tablets can impact learning and attainment.

*Please note that Techknowledge for Schools changed its name from Tablets for Schools in May 2015*
In the last 3 years Techknowledge for Schools, in collaboration with research company FK&Y, has carried out extensive research looking at the use of Tablets in education. This has included two literature reviews, and primary research with:

- Over 4,000 young people using 1-2-1 Tablets in schools
- Head Teachers at 40 schools using 1-2-1 Tablets
- Head Teachers at 671 UK schools about their Tablet use
- Over 30 focus groups with parents, teachers and students
About this research

To assess how many schools in the UK have introduced Tablets and to understand how these are used in teaching and learning, a survey was sent to 28,548 schools (23,640 primary schools, 6,066 secondary schools) in June, 2014.

671 schools responded.
The Sample

- **56%** Primary Schools
- **34%** Secondary Schools
- **7%** Primary and Secondary Schools
- **3%** Other
  - Special schools
  - Middle schools
  - Preparatory schools

Base: All answered (619)
26% - Academy
18% - Faith school
10% - Independent school
5% - Special school
3% - Free school
1% - Other
37% - State school

Base: All answered (619)
69% of schools in the UK are currently using Tablets

68% of primary schools use Tablets
69% of secondary schools use Tablets

9% of schools currently using tablets are using one-to-one Tablets (6% of all schools)

Base: All (671), Primary schools (345), Secondary schools (209), Currently using tablets (452)
One-to-one Tablets?

Amongst those schools currently using tablets...

17% of secondary schools are using one-to-one Tablets

But only 5% of primary schools are using one-to-one Tablets

Base: Primary schools using tablets (257), Secondary schools using tablets (190)
Academies are more likely to be using Tablets

76% of Academies use Tablets in teaching and learning

Of these, 14% are using one-to-one Tablets

51% of Independent schools use Tablets in teaching and learning

Of these, 6% are using one-to-one Tablets

Base: Academies (160), Independent schools (61), Academies using tablets (155), Independent schools using tablets (40 NB low base)
Schools using a variety of approaches to distribute Tablets

34% of schools use Tablets in some lessons only

15% have introduced Tablets for teacher use

14% use Tablets in some years only

12% of schools use in some classes only

Base: Currently using tablets (452), Primary schools using tablets (257), Secondary schools using tablets (190)
20% of schools share the Tablet resource – often available through a booking system.

- **2%** of schools use Tablets with SEN pupils.
- **2%** allocate Tablets within the timetable.
- **1%** are running Tablet trials.
- **7%** allocate a fixed number of Tablets to each class.
- **3%** using 1-2-1 Tablets among some students only.
- **1%** schools use Tablets in the library.

Base: Currently using tablets (452)
Funding is the biggest challenge to introducing Tablets on a larger scale

‘We would love to increase the use of tablets. They are currently in the English department only but unfortunately finances don’t allow.’
Deputy Headteacher

‘Only cash constraints and the current economic climate prevent us from introducing 1:1 Tablets.’
Deputy Headteacher

‘We would love to have tablets in school, but at present do not have the funds to facilitate this.’
Headteacher
The use of Tablets will continue to increase

Amongst those schools NOT currently using tablets...

- **49%** of schools are thinking of introducing Tablets
- **42%** of schools may be thinking of introducing Tablets
- **30%** are undecided
- **45%** likely to introduce in September 2014
- **16%** likely to introduce next year

Base: Not using tablets (207), Thinking of/may introduce tablets (185)
Amongst those schools NOT currently using tablets...

Are you thinking of introducing Tablets in your school?

- **Primary**
  - 55% Yes
  - 35% Maybe

- **Secondary**
  - 45% Yes
  - 51% Maybe

- **Academies**
  - 59% Yes
  - 38% Maybe

- **Independent schools**
  - 50% Yes
  - 43% Maybe

Base: Primary schools not using tablets (114), Secondary schools not using tablets (65), Academies not using tablets (39 NB low base), Independent schools not using tablets (30 NB low base)
Amongst those schools planning to introduce tablets...

19% of schools are planning to introduce one-to-one Tablet schemes

This increases to 34% for secondary schools

But only 11% of primary schools plan to introduce one-to-one Tablets

21%* of Independent schools and 35% of Academies plan to introduce one-to-one Tablets

*NB Low Bases

Base: Planning to introduce tablets (183), Primary schools planning to introduce tablets (132), Secondary schools planning to introduce tablets (88), Academies planning to introduce tablets (53), Independent schools planning to introduce tablets (38 NB low base)
27% of schools plan to introduce Tablets for teacher use

- 26% expect to use Tablets in some lessons only
- 23% expect to use in some years only
- 20% expect to use in some classes only

Base: Planning to introduce tablets (183)
Conclusions

- 69% of schools are currently using Tablets in teaching and learning.
- Of these, 9% are using one-to-one Tablets.
- In most schools Tablets are a shared resource.
- Funding prevents many schools from introducing Tablets on a larger scale.
- With 49% of schools without tablets considering the introduction of Tablets and 42% saying they might be considering the introduction, there is still a need for Tablets for Schools to support schools on the journey of introducing Tablets.
Download all the research from

www.techknowledge.org.uk

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