

# Carrick Academy

A guide  
to using  
an iPad  
in school



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## Introduction

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This brief eBook is meant to be a guide to how and why iPads are used in Carrick Academy. The information contained within has been gathered from pupil, teacher and parent feedback. There are two App wheels at the end which are intended to be a guide for the types of Apps used in school and the types of App available addressing a particular barrier to learning (reproduced by kind permission of CALL Scotland).

If you have any thoughts or comments please let us know at the following email address:

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# Why use iPads for learning?

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1. **It occupies a new space** in technology, one which is still undefined to some extent, yet which is likely to be significant over time. The space is between the mobile space occupied by phones and iPods, and the portable space which is where laptops and netbooks live. The new position in between these established areas is one I am naming the '**agile**' space - as the iPad largely does what the other devices offer yet also offers so much more.
2. **It will help to personalise learning** - it is widely recognised the 1 to 30 one-way knowledge-transfer model is fast becoming redundant. As teachers and lecturers begin to create new ways of tackling this issue, the iPad could play a useful role in this transformation.
3. **The end of networks?** - the iPad could be the beginning of the end of the dominance of managed networks in education. How much time is wasted not being able to 'log in'? How often is the network 'down'? The iPad could hold all the apps a learner needs for a day/week/month/term's work.
4. **The iPad needs little if any maintenance** and installing the software is simple, quick and easy - there is little need for any technical support. This is important because it puts the learner, teacher and school in control of their technology.
5. **It's a blank canvas** - the scope for apps written specifically for teaching and learning is huge. Educationalists can work with developers to create new and innovative software which reflect the learner's needs and expectations in technology. Essentially the iPad is a tactile and engaging mobile device which could transform the way people learn.
6. **Instant-on & all-day battery** - young people (rightly) expect devices to come to life at the press of a button. It's possible to get on the net and find the information you require using an iPad before a laptop has finished running through its boot-up sequence. Using a device all through the school day without having to charge it up saves a huge amount of time for teachers and learners. There is nothing more frustrating and disruptive than having to find 10-15 laptop chargers halfway through a lesson!
7. **Auto-Save** - the apps which run the iPad (and other iOS devices) signal the way forward when it comes to saving work learners produce and create. Saving files takes place automatically 'behind the scenes' constantly in the background, which means learners (and teachers) know their work is always safe. No more excuses like 'I forgot to save my homework' etc. anymore!
8. **Contextual Learning** - the form factor, battery life and apps mean that the iPad can be an 'anywhere anytime' learning device. This makes it ideal for projects and learning which take place out of the classroom, in the schools grounds, on a day visit or residential stay. Couple the iPad with a MiFi and learners can be online at all times at every location.
9. **When** all the potential functionality of the iPad is added up, its form factor, the iOS, the cameras, and the apps, it becomes clear that the iPad is a Personal Learning Studio. It can be a science lab, literacy tool, research station, history archive, language lab, art canvas, music studio, video editing suite, games console and library.
10. **For the first time** we have a device, OS and software which is agile enough to meet the learning needs for any subject, any age and all abilities. The iPad has enabled people previously excluded from engaging with technology, to now use a device for the first time with innovative apps such as Airvox

Adapted with thanks from

[http://www.ipadineducation.ianwilson.biz/iPad\\_in\\_Education/iPads\\_in\\_Schools.html](http://www.ipadineducation.ianwilson.biz/iPad_in_Education/iPads_in_Schools.html)

# Answers to frequently asked questions



# Shortcuts for maths and science



Using the free App 'Special Characters' you can easily set up the iPad to include shortcuts in your work with characters not contained in the IOs keyboard.

Every school iPad is set up with the following shortcuts:

Symbol	Phrase	Display symbol	
Square root	sqr	$\sqrt{\quad}$	
Pi	pi	$\pi$	
Multiply	xx	$\times$	
Divide	div	$\div$	
Add	add	$+$	
Subtract	sub	$-$	
Indices	sm2	$^2$	
	sm3	$^3$	
	sm4	$^4$	Up to 9
Fractions	1/2	$\frac{1}{2}$	
	1/3	$\frac{1}{3}$	
	1/4	$\frac{1}{4}$	Plus all others available
Degrees	deg	$^{\circ}$	
	degc	$^{\circ}\text{C}$	
Greater than	gt	$>$	
Less than	lt	$<$	
Greater than or equal to	gte	$\geq$	
Less than or equal to	lte	$\leq$	
Not equal to	ne	$\neq$	
Lambda	la	$\lambda$	
Omega	ohm	$\Omega$	

# Carrick Academy App Wheel



This is a selection of the Apps used on our iPads in school along with suggestions of how they relate to key parts of the curriculum and general learning. Various pupils have also contributed to the creation of this App Wheel.

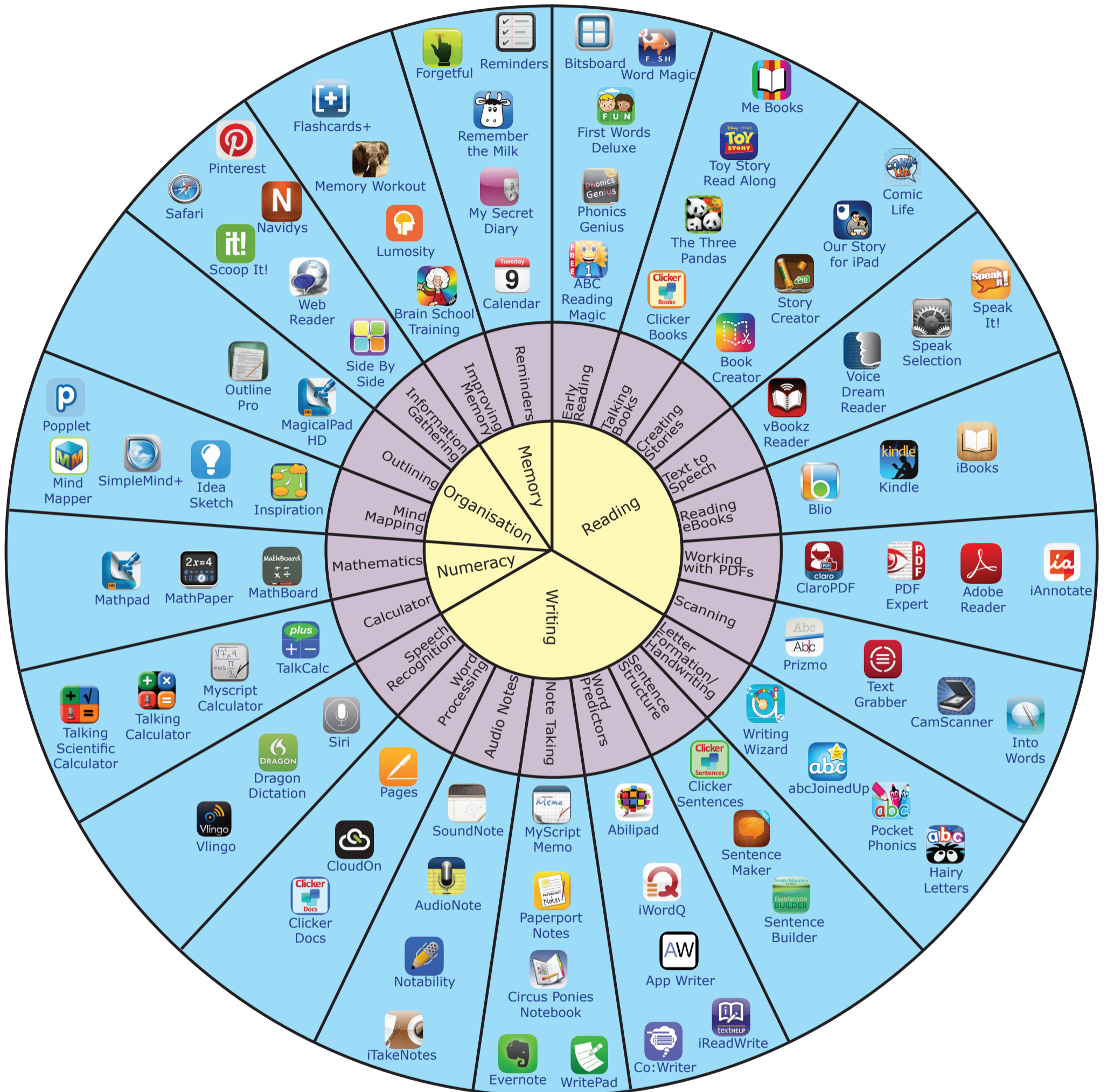
Many of the Apps are free and many come included with iPads.



It is important to remember that people learn differently and selecting apps should be based on the unique learning needs of the individual.

This list is only a sampling of apps available for each skill area. This is not, nor is it meant to be, a definitive list. This list is intended to give you a starting place and a rationale for picking certain apps.

# iPad Apps for Learners with Dyslexia/ Reading and Writing Difficulties



**Dyslexia Indicator Apps**

Dyslexia Detector    What is Dyslexia?    iCept

Dyslexia Indicator apps don't fit into the 'wheel', but are definitely worth knowing about. These apps (particularly Dyslexia Detector and 'What is Dyslexia?') do not provide formal screening tests, but give an indication that a learner MAY have dyslexia and that this should be investigated further.

Many iPad apps are available to support learners with reading and writing difficulties. This 'Wheel of Apps' is not comprehensive, but attempts to identify relevant apps and to categorise them according to some of the difficulties faced by people with dyslexia.

Note that some apps address a range of difficulties. In order to save space, we have decided not to place individual apps into multiple categories, but have placed them according to a single category that is particularly relevant to the app.

There will be a far more comprehensive guide to apps for dyslexia and how to use them in a forthcoming book from CALL Scotland. This will be available as a printed book and as a free download early in the New Year from: <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/Resources/Books/>

This 'Wheel of apps' for dyslexia is inspired by previous visual app representations:

- *The Pedagogy Wheel* - Allan Carrington
- *Mobile Learning with Bloom's Taxonomy & the Pedagogy Wheel* - Cherie Pickering & Amanda Pickering
- *Apps for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders* - Mark Coppin.

These representations are available from various web sites, but can all be downloaded from: <http://apps4stages.wikispaces.com/AppWheels>.

