



Learning Technologies Information Sheet

1. Apple iPod Touch 8GB

What is it?

The iPod Touch is a portable media player using flash memory, and comes with a 3.5 inch display and a click wheel interface. The model demonstrated by the RSC West Midlands is a 8gb device which features video playback, audio playback and image galleries. The battery lasts for approx. 36 hours on audio playback and approx, 6 hours on video playback. When fitting an additional external microphone to this device (not supplied) the iPod Touch becomes an effective audio recording device.

Potential uses for Teaching and Learning:

The iPod Touch is a mobile wireless enabled device that allows the user to access educational content either online or by physical download. Typically the Touch is used to access VLE content online, to browse the Internet and access video and/or audio content and access email as well as listen to music.

The iPod Touch has over 1000 educational applications (apps) to download which can support the development of functional skills, collaboration, communication and traditional subject areas including history and the sciences. Although active learning styles can be supported using this device the iPod Touch tends to lend itself better to passive learning styles for example read/write, visual and auditory.

Pros and Cons

Pros

- Pinch and slide navigation of the 3.5 inch display offers a clear and vibrant viewing experience Wifi enabled. The iPod Touch automatically locates the nearest Wifi network allowing the user to access educational content either online or by physical download.
- The iPod Touch has over 1000 educational applications (apps).
- Light weight and robust design.
- Intuitive interface design.

Cons

- No Flash support.
- The touch sensitive screen requires skin contact to operate.
- The touch sensitive screen is unlikely to be suitable for users with a pronounced visual impairment.
- Battery life for this unit is reported to last up to 36 hours, however constant use particularly web browsing will dramatically reduce battery life.
- No external memory slot.
- No external volume control.
- Wireless synchronisation not available.