



SCOIL MHUIRE, GOWRAN

Digital Learning Plan

1. Introduction

This document records the outcomes of our current digital learning plan, including targets and the actions we will implement to meet the targets.

School Details:

Scoil Mhuire is a rural co-ed Catholic primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. There are currently 283 pupils and a staff of 15 teachers, 3 of whom work in special education contexts. The school has a supportive Parents Association whose members have previously provided funding for digital technology resources (see below for an outline of current resources).

School Vision:

In Scoil Mhuire, all members of the school community are united in wishing to provide a holistic education for all the children who attend our school.

We see Digital Learning as enabling children and teachers to engage with the curriculum in a deep, child-centred and creative way, helping children expand their learning and helping to differentiate learning activities to suit the needs of the individual child or class. We also wish to use Digital Technology to support and facilitate the learning of pupils with special needs, to make learning more accessible for them.

As educators we aim to upskill ourselves with CPD in this area so that we can use Digital Technology to help us in planning learning activities and monitoring and assessing progress.

As we are living in a digital society, we also feel it is important that we equip our pupils with the skills and knowledge they need to work safely in this environment. In accordance with our Acceptable Usage Policy, we aim to incorporate aspects of online safety into our digital work to address this need.

Lastly, home school links are strong in the school and we wish to keep communication as open as possible with the aid of digital technologies.

Brief account of the use of digital technologies in the school to date:

ICT equipment currently in use:

- All mainstream classrooms are equipped with a teaching laptop, short-throw projector with speakers and interactive whiteboard and visualiser.
- Teacher laptops are wirelessly connected to the photocopier.
- All classrooms are equipped with two laptops for pupil use if desired.
- 16 additional laptops are available for class use, though these are now quite old.
- Each child has a memory stick for saving school work.
- A set of 17 I pads is timetabled for classroom use and another I pad is available in the Resource Room
- The school is completely networked for broadband access but there have been ongoing problems with school wide access and speed.
- The office has a laptop for school administration and the Aladdin system is in use by all staff.
- Two digital cameras are available.

Our current ICT plan for each class band is as follows:

Infant Classes:

- Children are exposed to an ICT environment on a daily basis.
- During the year the children will use the ebeam stylus for interactive activities.
- Teacher exposes the children to ICT through mediums such as the visualiser, laptop, digital camera, whiteboard. iPads and a variety of software such as Bua Na Cainte, Jolly Phonics, Grow in Love etc.
- When possible and during a block period of time children pair up with a senior class to use ICT in various ways such iPads and digital camera.
- Children will learn how to power on and off and iPads, how to find iPads Apps in specific folders and learn how to move from one app to another.
- Children will use a wide range of iPad apps to consolidate learning in other aspects of their curriculum.
- Children will use the iPads to read eBooks to play phonics and math games and use appropriate apps in the infant folder.
- Children will develop fine motor skills through iPads Apps.

- Infant apps 2017 -2018: Jolly Phonics, Dandelion Launchers, Star Fall, Oxford Owl, Big Cat, Dexteria Jr., Dexteria Dots, Animal Maths, Pop Math, Going Places, Sock Puppets.

First and Second Classes:

As for infant classes, plus:

- Learn to use Microsoft Word to draft, edit and publish creative writing using upper and lower-case letters, full stops, commas question and exclamation marks, using the spacebar, the return, shift and caps lock and using the Bold, Italic and Underline tools.
- Learn to use software to engage in real learning.
- Log on to educational websites to explore content, play interactive games and search for information at an age-appropriate level. Sites to be chosen by the teacher and placed on Favourites list.
- Continue to use interactive whiteboard activities.
- Navigate software by entering, exiting, closing, choosing options, clicking, double clicking and dragging the mouse.
- Engage in basic typing skills using a typing tutor linked from the school website.
- Learn how to access and use the school website.
- Learn to use the interface of an iPad, navigate between apps.

Third and Fourth Classes:

- Use MS Word to draft, edit and publish written documents
 - Develop use of function keys – caps, space bar, punctuation marks, return, shift key, copy & paste, highlight and delete text
 - Format text – bold, underline, italics, align text, spellcheck
 - Change font, font size and font colour
 - Insert images onto document.
- Develop further use of MS Word tools such as WordArt

- File Management: Continue to use a USB stick – Inserting and removing USB sticks, saving documents to USB, creating folders and retrieving information.
- Create Powerpoints or alternative child version powerpoints through digital tools like PowToon.
- Develop typing skills using a Typing Tutor Programme
- Use interactive whiteboard
- Use of digital technologies for project research and general demonstration of knowledge and skills obtained in the curriculum.
 - Learn to use internet browsers – locate and save images and insert into documents.
 - Develop independent research skills. Become familiar with child friendly sites such as World Book Online.
- Learn about safety on the internet and become aware of threats in the digital environment.
- Navigate and use school website
- Use Internet interactive learning sites to enhance learning e.g. Khan Academy
- Use educational software on laptops to further develop learning: Tables Challenge, Know Your Ireland, Know Your Europe etc.
- Use of education applications on iPads to further develop learning in areas of Literacy, Numeracy, Gaeilge and other curricular subjects.
- Use of the Book Creator app to demonstrate their knowledge of topics learned e.g. History topics such as The Normans or The Vikings.
- Digital Storytelling using iPads
- Use of Kahoot as an assessment tool.
- Introduction of Coding using the Lightbot app.

Fifth and Sixth Classes:

Skills to be learned:

Term 1

- Improve keyboard skills through research and project-work across the curriculum.
- Develop further use of Microsoft Word tools such WordArt, Copy/Paste, Spell-check, Format Text (*italics, bold, underline*), Justify/Centre/Align Left or Right, Print, Save As, File Management etc.

- Learn to use an Internet Browser to search for information and about safety on the internet, especially with regard to social networking sites (Webwise link and other Internet safety links on school website).
- Use interactive learning sites on the Internet e.g. abcya, Kahoot, Britannica to deepen and enhance learning across the curriculum.
- Use the iPad as a research tool using Kidrex.org.
- Engage with educational apps such as Skitch, Counties of Ireland, Countries Quiz, Kahoot, Scratch Jr, Green Screen (Fís) browsing the internet with safari etc.

Term 2

- Further develop Microsoft Word tools such as choosing different fonts, changing colours, using text boxes, creating columns, simple tables and manipulating pictures etc.
- Create folders, store and file work in different locations and retrieve it when necessary (Each child has a personal memory key).
- Learn how to save images to Dropbox and use when needed.
- Learn to copy and paste from one file to another.
- Search for and save information from the Internet to the children's own folders.
- Learn how to create PowerPoint (Integration with English/SESE).
- Learn to use school iPad camera while engaging with Fís project.
- Expand further uses for iPad in learning through apps/educational software.

Term 3

- Continue to further develop skills acquired in term 1 & 2.
- Publish creative writing, project work and reports on the school website (SESE: Project Work/English: Genre Writing).
- Learn to use Google Maps (Geography).
- Engage with MovieMaker program to edit Fís project.
- Create their own interactive stories and games using Scratch Jr (theme focused) e.g. WW2

2. The focus of this Digital Learning Plan

We undertook a digital learning evaluation in our school during the period *April 2018- February 2019*. We evaluated our progress using the following sources of evidence:

- Assessment of ICT equipment currently in use
- Assessment of the skills and competencies being displayed by the pupils through teacher observation
- Consultation with pupils through focus group discussion
- PDST tutor spent a day advising the staff on planning for the Digital Learning Framework and technologies to invest in (Shane Egan, March 2018)
- PDST DLF seminar for the principal and staff member Olivia O' Keeffe (February 2019)

Following the above, we realised that our current ICT plan is over ambitious due to a number of factors which include: - time constraints in an overcrowded curriculum; unreliable, slow broadband; ageing laptops. The need to purchase a set of new laptops/ netbooks to allow the teaching of basic computer skills to continue has been agreed as a priority. It was decided that a more focused use of iPads to foster active engagement by pupils in learning was needed, with each class gaining expertise with a particular app/ tool to achieve set targets rather than dipping into a whole variety of tools. The need for more widespread use of digital technologies by teachers for formative and summative assessment was acknowledged.

2.1 The dimensions and domains from the Digital Learning Framework being selected

- Following our evaluation, we have chosen to focus on the dimension of TEACHING AND LEARNING. Within this dimension

2.2 The standards and statements from the Digital Learning Framework being selected

| Standard | Statement(s) |
|--|---|
| Pupils enjoy their learning, are motivated to learn and achieve as learners. | Pupils use appropriate digital technologies to foster active engagement in attaining appropriate learning |
| Teachers collectively develop and implement consistent and dependable formative and summative assessment practices | Teachers use digital technologies to design and develop a range of appropriate authentic formative and summative assessment practices |
| | |

2.3. These are a summary of our strengths with regards digital learning

- Pupils in our school are quite proficient in using digital technology and are exposed to a wide range of resources as they progress through the school
- Staff members have engaged with digital technology from the outset and are motivated to engage in CPD to embed digital technologies across the curriculum
- The Board of Management has been very supportive in providing funding to develop the use of digital technologies though the cost of maintenance and replacement of obsolete technology is challenging

2.5 This is what we are going to focus on to improve our digital learning practice further

- Continue to teach pupils' computer skills
- Teachers to agree a set of learner outcomes in the use of digital technology for each two-year class level, initially to assist in achieving oral language targets
- Teachers to agree how pupils will be expected to demonstrate the learner outcomes and use this as a basis for formative and summative assessment
- Teachers to share expertise and discuss progress
- Staff will continue to engage in relevant CPD to facilitate greater use of digital technologies by pupils

3. Our Digital Learning plan

On the next page we have recorded:

- The **targets** for improvement we have set
- The **actions** we will implement to achieve these
- **Who is responsible** for implementing, monitoring and reviewing our improvement plan
- How we will measure **progress** and check **outcomes** (criteria for success)

As we implement our improvement plan we will record:

- The **progress** made, and **adjustments** made, and **when**
- **Achievement of targets** (original and modified), and **when**

Digital Learning Action Plan

| DOMAIN: (From Digital Learning Framework) Learner Outcomes | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| STANDARD(S): (From Digital Learning Framework) Pupils enjoy their learning, are motivated to learn and achieve as learners. | | | | |
| STATEMENT(S): (From Digital Learning Framework) Pupils use appropriate digital technologies to foster active engagement in attaining appropriate learning outcomes | | | | |
| TARGETS: (What do we want to achieve?) Pupils will use appropriate technologies to create digital content to enhance their oral language learning . | | | | |
| ACTIONS (What needs to be done?) | TIMEFRAME (When is it to be done by?) | PERSONS / GROUPS RESPONSIBLE (Who is to do it?) | CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS (What are the desired outcomes?) | RESOURCES (What resources are needed?) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pupils will become proficient in using the following apps and create digital content at least once a term: - Infants – using Sock Puppets to create animations relevant to themes n Aistear - 1st /2nd Class - learn to use the app Book Creator to create narrated eBooks - 3rd/ 4th Class – learn to use Doink (green screen) for oral language activities in English and Gaeilge - 5th/ 6th Class – learn to use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March – June 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Class teachers and pupils | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● By June 2019 each teacher will have used the relevant digital tool to support oral language teaching and learning ● Each pupil will have created digital content and shared it with an audience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (iPads and apps ● Laptops (new set to be purchased) ● Projectors and whiteboards |

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|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Adobe Spark app to create video stories/ web pages/ presentations etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers will engage in relevant CPD in using digital technologies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer 2019 Autumn 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff members DL team to arrange for school support from PDST | | |
| <p>EVALUATION PROCEDURES: (How are we progressing? Do we need to make adjustments? Have we achieved our targets?)</p> | | | | |
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