



St Mary's Primary School
Draperstown

I.C.T Policy

At St. Mary's P.S. we aim to encourage the 'Learning Community' to be *motivated by, gain confidence in and enjoyment from* the use of ICT.

We aim to be *self-evaluative* in the use of ICT, *reflecting* on current practice and *keeping abreast* of emerging technologies.

ICT allows all pupils to gain confidence and ability in an ever-changing society and prepares them for the challenge of a rapidly developing and evolving technological world.

- To provide opportunities to enable all our staff, pupils and parents to be confident, competent and independent users of ICT.
- To provide an environment where access to ICT resources is natural and commonplace.
- To ensure ICT has a fundamental role in developing and enhancing our school's key learning aims in promoting the pupils' educational, physical and social needs.
- To professionally develop staff by providing training and support to enable them to increase their capabilities and make the best possible use of ICT to develop and enhance their teaching, management and administrative skills.

Introduction

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is changing the lives of everyone. At St. Mary's ICT includes the use of computers, video, telecommunications and cameras.

We aim to enable our pupils to find, explore, analyse, exchange and present information. We also focus on developing the skills necessary for children to be able to use information in a discriminating and effective way.

St Mary's delivers the requirements set out within the Northern Ireland Curriculum and develops the use of the 5Es within the tasks already being carried out

- Explore
- Express
- Exchange
- Evaluate
- Exhibit

ICT forms part of the School Development Plan and is reviewed annually.

St Mary's is well equipped with 18 networked PCs in our computer suite, a networked laptop and PC in each class and an Interactive White Board in each classroom. Each teacher has access to a Laptop computer for use at home and school.

Every class has access to

- class PCs
- a bee bott
- a colour printer
- a digital camera
- an Interactive Whiteboard

Strategies for use of ICT

- ICT is not taught as a distinct subject, but it is a tool to be used as appropriate throughout the curriculum
- All pupils are given equal access
- ICT is an entitlement for all pupils
- Common tasks are set that are open-ended and can have a variety of responses
- We provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability and experience of the child

ICT Competences

At St Mary's we endeavor to help our pupils to develop competence in the use of ICT.

ICT competence is concerned with:

- Learning about ICT - developing the knowledge and skills required to use ICT effectively and to apply these in a range of contexts.
- Learning through ICT - developing the skills required to access and use information from a range of electronic sources, interpret it and use it effectively.
- Learning with ICT - applying the skills in their own learning either at school, at home or in the community.

Pupils accessing the World Wide Web

ICT and the Northern Ireland Curriculum

- Literacy
ICT is a major contributor to the teaching of Literacy
 - Children learn how to draft, edit and revise text.
 - Children can create, develop present and publish ideas and opinions visually or orally.
 - They learn how to improve the presentation of their work by using desk-top publishing and presentational software.
- Numeracy
Many ICT activities build upon the mathematical skills of the children.
 - Children use ICT in Numeracy to collect data, make predictions, analyse results, and present information graphically.
 - They can explore mathematical models e.g. use of BeeBots, Probots and spreadsheets.

- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) and Citizenship. ICT makes a contribution to the teaching of PDMU and citizenship as children learn to work together in collaborative manner.
 - They develop a sense of global citizenship by using the Internet.
 - Through the discussion of moral issues related to electronic communication, children develop a view about the use and misuse of ICT as exemplified through the use of LNI.
 - They also gain a knowledge and understanding of the interdependence of people around the world.
- Creative and Expressive
 ICT offers children the freedom to express their own ideas creatively and to experience the designs of others.
 - Children will have the opportunity to develop their creativity through a range of network software and digital technology.
 - They can explore the Internet to gain access to a wealth of images and information about world famous pieces.
- World around Us
 ICT transcends the barriers of distance and opens up the world as an easily accessible global community allowing children to experience the past, present and future of the world they live in.

Inclusion

St Mary's ICT facilities are available for use by all pupils and staff. All children are given access to ICT regardless of gender, race, physical or sensory disability. ICT can impact on the quality of work that children can produce and it can increase their confidence and motivation.

The Special Needs teacher has access to a networked laptop to support her everyday teaching and learning strategies.

Progression, Monitoring, Assessing and Evaluating

Progression

- All children develop and learn at their own pace.
- Progression is assured through a range of increasingly challenging activities covering all areas of ICT and embedded in the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

i.) In Foundation Stage -.Progression of the skills within the three E's of Explore, Express and Exhibit are monitored and evaluated through the I.C.T. Records of Achievement.

ii.) In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. - Progression of the skills within the five E's of Explore, Express, Exchange, Evaluate and Exhibit are monitored and evaluated through the I.C.T. Records of Achievement.

Assessment and Monitoring

- a) Evidence covering all areas of ICT is gathered within each pupil's folder on an annual basis.
- b) It is currently the responsibility of the class teacher to monitor the standard and progress made by each pupil during the year. The ICT co-ordinator evaluates the evidence provided for the above and monitors the roll-out of the ICT Records of Achievement throughout the school.
- c) Samples of work and assessed grades for ICT Accreditation are agreed within the school and samples are forwarded for external moderation.
- d) Progress within ICT is evaluated each year as part of the School Development Plan. This information informs future planning.

ICT co-ordinator

- It is the responsibility of the ICT co-ordinator to assist all teachers with the implementation of this policy.
- The ICT co-ordinator has the responsibility for the management of the resources, which are required for the implementation of this policy.

- The ICT co-ordinator will disseminate information regarding new developments in ICT to other members of staff.
- The ICT co -ordinator will be responsible for any staff INSET in the development of ICT.
- It will be the responsibility of the ICT co-ordinator to ensure that the system for reviewing this policy is initiated.
- The ICT co-ordinator will be responsible for the updating of policy, action plans and Internet guidelines and informing staff of aforementioned documents.
- The ICT co-ordinator will liaise with IMEX and C2K to oversee the maintenance of the hardware and the C2k system.

