

St. Mary's Primary School, Draperstown



Seesaw Policy

October 2020

This document will outline what you can expect from our child-teacher-parent communication platform. This policy also supports of our 'Online Learning Policy'.

At St. Mary's Primary School, we are constantly seeking to improve our home-school communication. As part of this we are developing electronic profiling and will be using the seesaw app within our classrooms, to share a snapshot of children's learning. Seesaw is a platform that allows schools and pupils to engage with parent/guardians to create an online environment which:

- Empowers children to take ownership of their learning and to reflect on their progress over time.
- Gives pupils tools to show what they know in the way that works best for them.
- Inspires pupils to try their best by providing an audience for their work beyond the classroom.
- Create a meaningful home-school connection so that parents and carers can better support their child's learning.

Privacy

Under General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), in order for a child to use Seesaw, St Mary's Primary School must obtain parental consent. In completing a consent form and signing up to the Seesaw Apps, parents/careers are allowing the app to use their child's name in order to be able to associate work like photographic evidence of work, videos or voice recordings with their account. Seesaw only uses this information to provide the service and doesn't advertise in Seesaw, create profiles of students, or share or sell your child's personal information or journal content. Further information about their strong privacy promises can be found online at <https://web.seesaw.me/privacy>. It is the parent's responsibility to read this privacy document and when they have connected to the Seesaw Apps, it is assumed that this has been read.

What is Seesaw?

Seesaw is an app where your child, teacher and parent can share work and announcements in a safe, secure and private social network environment. Ms Coyle can also communicate with all classes and parents via the Seesaw Family App.

Seesaw will provide a safe digital learning journal for your child to document their learning creatively by periodically adding entries to it like photos, videos, drawings and notes to show you what they're doing in class.

It creates a triangle of communication between you as parents, the teacher, but also, your child. And it does this all whilst encouraging digital citizenship and showing how we can use technology in a safe, creative way.



How does Seesaw work?

Seesaw is made up of 1 website (available on Windows or macOS with Chrome or Firefox)

and

2 apps (available on iOS, Android, Chrome OS and tvOS):



The FAMILY app:

- Allows you, and anyone in the family who you would choose, to access, like and comment on your child's Seesaw learning journal to interact and see what your child is learning and teacher is posting.
- Allows you to read and write private messages between you, the teacher or Ms Coyle. NB: It is important to remember that during direct teaching and outside of school hours, it may take school staff longer to respond to queries. It is important to contact the school office in case of an emergency.

- You will receive a notification direct on your device whenever the teacher or your child posts on the learning journal

The CLASS app:

- Allows your child and the teacher to post, like and comment to the learning journal
- Parents can upload pictures or information to their child's journal via this app
- This app acts as a digital exercise book for your child.

The Seesaw website:

- Is simply a Chrome or Firefox version of the apps but note, you will not receive direct notifications on these platforms

Why are we communicating this way?

As digital devices become more embedded in our lives, our children need to be aware how to use them responsibly, creatively and productively. This level of integration into our lives means that standalone Computing lessons are no longer sufficient or as effective at teaching children embedded digital citizenship. We only have to look at the state of comments on public platforms such as YouTube to know that there is a large amount of unawareness of how to talk to each other from behind a computer screen.

By exposing our students to a safe, digital, social environment from as early as Primary 1, we are also exposing them to brand new learning of how to be better at screen relationships, communication and the how to use technology responsibly - how to be the digital citizen of the future that the world so desperately needs. How do you deal with feedback? How do you respond when you can't see how others react?

Seesaw is designed to be child-led. This means that, as a school, we will actively encourage your child to take ownership of their work and share this with you. Experience and research has even shown that the quality of children's work has increased when using sharing platforms such as this due to the child knowing there is an active audience. By all the participating members of Seesaw engaging in this, we can practice this vital way of communicating in a safe, moderated environment.

How does Seesaw know who to send my child's posts to?

As a parent, you can sign-up for Seesaw in two ways:

- Through a QR code
- Through a link via email or text message

With the **QR Code** option, the code is uniquely generated by Seesaw to link to only your child's account.

With the **link option**, you will choose your child from the class list to only link to their learning journal. Each time a teacher or child posts, they are required to tag a student in that post. Sometimes it may be 1 child, sometimes a group and sometimes the whole class. Notifications will go to those parents whose child is tagged in the post.

What and how should I respond to my child's post?

There are two ways you can respond to your child's post:

- Like
- Comment

How often you do this is up to you. There will be times when it is appropriate to simply like a post to acknowledge to your child you have seen their work.

Other times you may want to:

- Ask questions that challenge their learning
- Give constructive feedback
- Provide an 'even better if' comment

What if my child is not engaging with Seesaw?

As staff, we will actively encourage your child to share their learning on Seesaw. However, as with all new systems, this will take time to embed and for your child settle in to. Please use such an opportunity to discuss with your child reasons why they may not want to share posts and how we can support them. The digital version of stage fright does exist and this is one of the reasons Seesaw can be such a powerful discovery and learning tool.

Will Seesaw just be used for sharing my child's learning?

No, in addition to the type of communication previously mentioned, Seesaw can be used in class through shared digital activities such as during Task Board Activities. From time to time, we will use our class panels to provide children with the opportunity of showcasing to the other class members, photographs or videos that they have uploaded into their journal from home. This may be online homework, a fun day out or something special that your child wishes to share in school.

Who can see my child's posts?

Only the teacher, Primary Leadership, family members who are linked to that child's learning journal and their fellow class mates will see your child's post. Journals are not public and never shared with 3rd parties. You can read more at [Seesaw's Privacy Center](#).

Comments and posts can only be deleted by the teacher or Primary Leadership Team and are irretrievable at this point. This will only be done however if there is an error to be corrected or a child protection issue.

What happens to last year's posts?

All posts from your child's previous year will be archived on them moving up to the next year. These are then accessible through your app if you wish to look back on the previous year's work.

Can I opt-out?

Seesaw is the school's way of communicating your child's learning and the way the teacher will send announcements and reminders. Should you not wish to use Seesaw, you will not receive these updates.