

ST BRIDGET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of digital technologies is central to our vision for teaching and learning within St Bridget's Primary School.

'All staff take responsibility for developing literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and digital literacy across the curriculum. Learners demonstrate these skills at a high level in a variety of meaningful contexts.' (HGIOS4)

We believe in staff using digital technologies across their practice as an engaging and effective learning and teaching tool and that pupils develop vital digital skills 'necessary for the rapidly changing challenges of life, learning and work in the modern world' (Building the Curriculum 4 – Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work, Scottish Government, 2009).

In St Bridget's Primary school the use of digital technology is embedded in daily practice and central to effective teaching and learning. The school, with the support of North Ayrshire Council, have implemented a range of digital technologies for all members of the school community and continue to improve access to and adapt to changes in digital technology. The school has a culture of professional development such that most staff are enthusiastic users of digital technologies both in their teaching and personal use. Central to the programme of professional development is the sharing of good practice as well as input with staff on new applications within the classroom.

MANAGEMENT OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Regular access is given to all pupils in a safe environment using a variety of technologies including:

- Laptops
- Interactive whiteboards
- 4 slots per week timetabled for iPads
- Class set of iPads available for access at any time and for longer projects
- Class iPad – for photos/video.
- Class digital camera
- Green screen

All staff have a Macbook or HP laptop, which is used for preparing resources and linking to the Interactive Whiteboard. These can also be used by pupils to support learning.

The school is supported by North Ayrshire Council IT technicians. Jobs can be logged and support provided, in most instances within a week. North Ayrshire Council also deploy updates to hardware.

We have eight digital leaders, from Primary 6, who support the timetabling of iPads and laptops, report faults and support Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Leitch with new development with ICT throughout the school. They continue to have extra training to cascade skills to their peers.

iTeach have provided the digital leaders with a uniform (which they wear when training), lanyard style ID badgers and digital leader uniform badges which help them to be identified on a daily basis.

Digital leaders and teachers report any faults on the log in the Classroom Assistant's room.

PEDAGOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

Education Scotland provides advice on resources for practitioners, parents and pupils to engage with these technologies in order to inform and enhance the learning experience.

At St Bridget's Primary, we recognise the distinctive contribution of digital technology in learning and teaching. We promote varied and effective pedagogical approaches. It is widely recognised that learners are motivated and purposefully engaged in the learning process when concepts and skills are underpinned with technology and sound pedagogy. Resources used regularly within learning and teaching include:

- Glow** – for blogging, email, access to resources such as TigTag Science, BBC languages, glow meets
- e-books
- games based learning: Sumdog/Education City/Nessy
- digital teaching resources: First News/Votes for Schools/TigTag/Charanga/ReadandWrite
- a variety of apps (core apps include Book Creator/iMovie/Garageband)
- standardised testing
- coding
- iTunesU course material
- communication tools such as Twitter

** All staff and children have their own log on details for GLOW. These are kept securely and not shared with others. All children have regular opportunities to access Glow through whole class discussions and contributions using Glow blogs, by emailing and by accessing the wide range of resources available. Staff can customise their Glow launch page to access the most relevant tiles for them and use these often with the children to consolidate learning.

All classes have a Glow Blog – some private and some public. Children are able gain experience in how to blog in a safe environment.

E-SAFETY

Staff

Staff are aware of the e-safety risks associated with the use of digital technologies, know how to keep themselves safe and can provide e-safety guidance for others. Staff training is available as part of the Child Protection training calendar and through e-learning modules. A basic training is completed by all staff. All staff are aware how to protect their professional identity online and understand the boundaries between personal and professional use. Staff can access a Comprehensive guide for teacher's use of the internet - 'The Internet Safety Teacher's Network' through Glow.

Pupils

Internet access is planned to enrich and extend learning activities. The school has acknowledged the need to ensure that all pupils are responsible and safe users of the Internet and other communication technologies. North Ayrshire Council provides an internet access policy to protect all parties and rules for responsible internet use must be agreed to by pupils and their parents before use. (See Appendix 1).

North Ayrshire Council ensures that the web content is subject to appropriate filtering, ensuring the school offers a safe online environment. However, we recognise the importance of teaching our children about online safety and their responsibilities when using communication technology. Children are taught about e-safety and the skills that enable them to make safe and responsible use of ICT. E-safety features regularly in the whole school assemblies organised by SMT. Pupils have had the opportunity to contribute to explore e-safety particularly through peer activities. This is part of the Technologies and Health and Wellbeing curriculum taught at each stage.

INCLUSION

We recognise ICT offers particular opportunities for pupils with additional support needs. ICT can cater for the variety of learning styles which a class of children may possess.

Using ICT can:

- increase access to the curriculum
- raise levels of motivation and self esteem
- improve the accuracy and presentation of work
- address individual needs

We aim to maximize the use and benefits of ICT as one of the many resources to enable all pupils to achieve their full potential. Children make use of technology to support their learning. Staff are developing ways of using ICT to meet accessibility legislation. The specific learning needs of many pupils are met, at least in part, through the use of ICT.

CAREER LONG PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Regular opportunities for CLPL are provided in school to support digital learning and teaching for both teaching and non-teaching staff. The authorities digital learning team provide further opportunities which staff can opt in to. These include a biannual Digichat where staff actively share information and experiences, regular iPad training and Twitter usage training. Staff can access further training and skills development through GLOW.

Staff are kept informed of all digital events.

COMMUNICATION

ICT is used to communicate with parents through the school website and Twitter. A school text messaging system through the computer is also used successfully. (See Appendix 2 for North Ayrshire Council's policy).

ACTIONS

- Develop skills of our educators
 - Staff to reflect the importance of digital technology and skills in CLPL and discuss in PRD.
 - Continue to offer wide range of CLPL to develop skills and confidence and promote NAC training.
 - In-house CLPL calendar to be put in place for teaching and non-teaching staff.
 - Sharing good practice to be included in ICT calendar.
- Improve access to digital technology for all learners
 - Facilitate further e-safety training from partners (Police/Unicef/Childline) to develop awareness in this area.
 - Include e-safety in new Health and Wellbeing planners, which are being developed.
 - Class set of ipads to be purchased through P.E.F funding.
- Continue to review curriculum and assessment delivery
 - Through school quality improvement evaluate the quality of teaching and learning including ICT.
 - New technology planner to be revisited as result of recent Education Scotland developments.

Kress (2006) believes that with digital media becoming embedded within our everyday social, cultural and economic environments, it's vital not just for children, but for all people to gain the skills integral to the use of these technologies, and thus gain from the benefits they offer.

'The Scottish Government is committed to delivering excellence and equity in Scottish education. The use of digital technology can make a significant contribution to this commitment.' (Enhancing Learning and Teaching through Digital Technology – Smart Scotland)

October 2019

Mr Hopkins

Mr Mitchell

Digital Council - Fergus and Erin

Digital Leaders - Ruraidh and Naomi

This policy will be reviewed in October 2020.