

## **Mavisbank School**

### **Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy**

#### **Rationale**

The use of ICT in Mavisbank school is an important aspect of the pupils' experiences since it can enhance learning and teaching and allows the pupils to access all aspects of the curriculum (e.g. science, Health & Wellbeing).

Through the use of ICT, pupils can experience different sounds, colour and movement on the screen and it is a useful tool in developing Visual Awareness (VA) skills. The various programmes can encourage simple cause & effect, picture building and tracking. Using switches to operate other devices (kitchen equipment, fan, lights) pupils can experience some control over their immediate environment. ICT skills can also help in the development of skills for leisure activities (e.g. playing with switch activated toys, radio, iPod). BIGmack switches are also used in some groups to encourage pupils to take a more active part in the lessons. iPads are a powerful tool in our pupils' learning and they are encouraged to use them for homework.

#### **Aims**

Mavisbank School is committed to using ICT to enhance the learning opportunities for all pupils.

As such, ICT is seen as an opportunity to:

- Allow pupils to access all areas of the curriculum.
- Enhance the delivery of VA activities.
- Develop alternative forms of communication.
- Take some control of the immediate environment.
- Encourage awareness of cause & effect, active participation and
- Challenge pupils beyond these by providing opportunities to develop skills in tracking, targeting, responding to events, scanning and using more than 1 function.
- Support staff and parents in ensuring opportunities for ICT skill development.

#### **Implementation**

Mavisbank School is committed to offering all pupils the opportunity to use a variety of ICT resources safely.

- Pupils have an ICT Passport.
- A range of resources are used to assess and set individual targets.
- A variety of programmes are available and these are monitored on a regular basis so that pupils can experience a variety of different effects, responses and experiences while, at the same time, developing their own skills.
- Pupils have access to Switch Boxes allowing electrical equipment to be used by operating a single switch.
- Pupils access EyeGaze Technology offering ICT experiences and access via eye-pointing and eye-tracking.
- All ICT equipment is used both individually and within groups.

- Where ICT equipment and software is shared, resources are managed by timetabling and reviewed regularly.
- All pupils are involved in recording a message onto the BIGmack stating news of the school day and are also encouraged to operate the BIGmack to listen to the news from home each morning.
- Pupils can access experiences and tasks safely via touchscreen technology using: iPads, 'Tilt 'n' Touch' board and the Promethean board.
- Pupils can also access switch activities using an iPad.
- All data is managed safely in accordance with GDPR, NLC security policies & law and as outlined within the Software Terms & Conditions used at Mavisbank School.

## Resources

Switch Progression Road Map

Beyond Cause & Effect (Ian Bean)

Unlock Abilities Resources (Independent Living Centre, Western Australia)

SENict website which includes articles, software, lesson materials:

<https://www.ianbean.co.uk/senict-members-resource-portal/>

Other switch software used at Mavisbank School offering opportunities for switch progression: 'Jigsaw Maker2',

"SwitchIT Maker2', 'ChooseIT Maker2'.

Tracking and Targetting switch software resources includes: <http://www.shinylearning.co.uk/freegames/>

Advice from SaLT

Flo Longhorn 'Happy Apping'

HlepKidzLearn: <https://www.helpkidzlearn.com/>

National Grid

NOF training folder

NLC Education Department School Internet Access Policy

NLC Education and Families GDPR Privacy Statement for Education

National Action Plan on Internet Safety for Children & Young People (April 2017)

GDPR 2016/679

**Reviewed:** Eileen McDonnell, Shona Aiken (September 2020)

**Date of next review October 2023**