



Draft Digital Learning Plan

01/12/20

Introduction:

The digital Learning Plan is a record of the outcomes of the current Digital Learning Plan, including targets and actions that will be implemented to meet these targets.

School Details:

The Intermediate School is a co-educational, voluntary second-level school. It is a lay, Catholic school under unitary management.

School Vision:

The implementation of the Digital Learning Plan will:

- Reflect the Mission Statement of the school, in particular *'The School wishes to educate its pupils ... to achieve their potential, to develop their talents, to strive for excellence and to search for truth'*
- Support teaching, learning and assessment within the school
- Promote and facilitate collaborative practices among teachers
- Support curricular changes – Junior Cycle, Transition Year
- Promote and enhance the Wellbeing programme in the school
- Develop pupils and teachers to be Digital Citizens and Digital Leaders
- Support other school policies – Acceptable Use, Anti-Bullying, SPHE Plan
- Allow greater teacher collaboration

Current Use of Digital Technologies in the School:

Facilities:

- Each classroom is currently equipped with a computer and data projector.
- There is a Computer Room equipped with 30 computers and 1 printer.
- A Staff Workroom contains three computers and a printer
- The Technical Graphics/DCG Room has 21 computers and 1 printer.
- The Science Building has 2 printers.

- The Principal's office, Deputy Principal's Office, Career Guidance Counsellor's Office and Secretary's Office each have a computer and 2 printers.
- The school library has 13 computers and one printer which can be accessed by students during lunchtime. In some instances, class groups are brought to the library during class time to allow them to conduct research using these computers.
- The Science laboratories have 24 Chromebooks which are in a trolley and can be moved between the laboratories.
- The main school building also has 24 Chromebooks which can be moved between class rooms.
- There are 2 camcorders retained in the Secretary's office.

Teaching and Learning

- The school currently uses VSWARE for monitoring attendance, behaviour and timetabling
- Microsoft 365 Outlook is currently being used by staff for the purpose of communication.
- Subject Departments are beginning to use Microsoft Teams for collaboration purposes – sharing of resources, subject department plans etc.
- In some subjects, Microsoft Teams is also being used with students. This allows communication between students and also between students and teachers. Teachers who are currently using Teams with students mainly use it for the purpose of setting assignments, facilitating group work (project related), facilitating CBAs for Junior Cycle. Other staff members use Edmodo and
- Many teachers use ICT to support and enhance teaching and learning. This includes videos, animations, interactive quizzes, Quizlet, Mentimeter, Coggle, Kahoot, Geogebra, Census at Schools, Scoilnet
- ICT is also being used to support Formative Assessment specifically in relation to CBAs at Junior Cycle but also in DCG at Senior Cycle.
- Students use ICT for the submission of work – many students use MS PowerPoint to present their Oral Presentation for CBA 1 in English, analysis of data for Extended Experimental Investigation for CBA 1 in Science.
- Students also use ICT to present Extra-Curricular Projects – Scifest, BT Young Scientist, Young Entrepreneur etc.
- It is envisioned that in September 2019, Transition Year students will complete an E-portfolio.

Focus of the Digital Learning Plan:

An evaluation Digital Learning took place in the school during January 2019. This evaluation used the following sources of evidence:

1. Survey of students
2. Survey of teachers
3. Survey of parents (planned for March 2019)
4. Audit of current ICT equipment and hardware

Dimensions and Domains from the Digital Learning Framework being selected:

- Teaching and Learning – Learner Outcomes
- Teaching and Learning – Learner Experiences
- Teaching and Learning – Teachers’ Individual Practice
- Leadership and Management – Leading Learning and Teaching

The Standards and Statements from the Digital Learning Framework being selected

| Standard | Statement |
|--|--|
| Students enjoy their learning, are motivated to learn and expect to achieve as learners | Students use appropriate digital technologies to foster their active, creative and critical engagement in attaining challenging learning outcomes. |
| Students grow as learners through respectful interactions and experiences that are challenging and supportive | Digital interactions, among students and between students and teachers, are respectful, challenging and support the well-being of all students. |
| The teacher has the requisite knowledge, pedagogical knowledge and classroom management skills | Teachers critically reflect and experiment with a range of digital learning activities, continuously evaluate their effectiveness, and revise their teaching strategies accordingly. |
| Foster teacher professional development that enriches teachers’ and pupils’ learning | The Principal and other leaders in the school support and promote teachers’ continuing professional development to develop teacher competence in the use of digital technologies, resulting in high-quality teaching and learning. |

Strengths related to Digital Learning:

The main strengths identified include:

- Teachers regularly participate in online communities and forums related to teaching, learning and assessment
- Teachers with ICT skills are willing to share their expertise with their colleagues
- Most communication with parents is through the use of ICT
- Communication, where appropriate, between management and staff is mostly electronic
- Teachers regularly use ICT to enhance their lessons
- Many teachers are using ICT to maintain records and analyse data
- Students have a very strong sense of the potential risks and threats in digital environments

Areas of focus for improvement in relation to Digital Learning:

- Students, across all subjects at Junior Cycle, will use ICT to: gather and analyse data; discern between reliable and unreliable sources of data and information; collaborate with each other in conducting group project work.
- Teachers will, in all subject areas, use Microsoft 365 platform for collaboration and communication
- Teachers will set up Teams for pupils in their classes. These Teams will allow for differentiated learning opportunities and will provide opportunities for Formative Assessment.
- Teachers will continue to share their ICT expertise with peers in Teach-Meets and this will be facilitated by school management in Croke Park hours

Digital Learning Action Plan

| Targets | Actions | Who is responsible | Measure Progress |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1. Improve teacher collaboration and communication | All staff will be trained in the use of MS Teams and a follow up session will be conducted | Time arranged by school management Training provided by ICT co-ordinator | Reviewed annually to determine if there has been an increase |
| 2. Students will increase their ability to evaluate information gathered through ICT | In preparation for Classroom Based Assessments, students will be given the opportunity to use ICT to gather and analyse data. They will be taught how to critically analyse sources of information to determine its' reliability and validity | JCT Coordinator Junior Cycle Class Teachers Principal | Recorded in school reports as an 'Other Area of Learning' |
| 3. MS Teams will be used with pupils to facilitate group work and Formative Assessment | Students will be given MS Teams login and assigned to class groups. Class teachers will use Teams to facilitate Formative Assessment | ICT Coordinator will distribute usernames and passwords to students Class teachers will use Teams and 365 in appropriate manner | Reviewed annually to determine efficiency |

Review

The Digital Learning Plan will be included in the annual review of policies and plans in the school. Review of the Digital Learning Plan will be coordinated by the School Planning Coordinator.

Ratified by: J. J. D., 2020

Date: 01/12/20

