



Foghlaim agus Spaoi

## Kilbehenny National School

### ICT Policy



Foghlaim agus Spaoi

#### Introduction

As well as being an important educational resource, the ability to use information and communications technology (ICT) effectively is a vital life skill in modern society. Our aim is to produce learners - both pupils and staff - who are confident and effective users of ICT. We strive to achieve this by:

- Helping all staff and pupils to explore the learning resources provided by ICT
- Helping all children to use ICT with purpose and enjoyment
- Helping all children to develop the necessary skills to exploit ICT
- Helping children to become autonomous users of ICT
- Helping all children to evaluate the benefits of ICT and its impact on society
- Celebrating success in the use of ICT

#### Aims of ICT in the Primary Curriculum

The aims of ICT in education are:

- To develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable the child to use ICT to support his/her learning in appropriate ways
- To enable the child to acquire and apply ICT skills in the attainment of appropriate curriculum objectives across the range of subjects
- To enable the child to experience a wide range of ICT tools and resources in relevant curriculum contexts
- To encourage the child to use ICT critically and creatively and to be discriminating in the selection, analysis and presentation of information
- To enable the child to gain hands-on experience of a range of available technologies and to explore their potential in the classroom
- To foster confidence in the use of ICT through enjoyable collaborative learning experiences in which each child can experience success
- To raise the child's awareness of the significance and impact of modern technology on the social, economic, cultural and other dimensions of society
- To develop the pupils' understanding of ICT as a valuable life-skill that can enhance living and learning right throughout an individual's life

## **Rationale**

Our school requires ICT to:

- provide the best possible education for all our pupils
- provide a powerful and up to date teaching resource for all our teachers
- allow for more effective administration
- help provide more effective communication with staff and parents
- communicate with teachers and pupils in Europe and further afield
- prepare children for life in a technologically advanced world

## **Use of ICT**

ICT may be used in Kilbehenny NS in order to fulfil the following functions:

- School Administration
- Research
- Games that stimulate thinking skills and problem solving, as well as consolidation of learning
- Word Processing
- Basic coding
- Communication
- School website
- Music composition & digital recording
- Storage of records
- Portfolio assessment
- Supporting pupils with special educational needs

Children will develop competency in ICT use over the course of their school career. ICT is used on a daily basis in a variety of ways. From time to time, teachers will use presentations, online stories, songs, ‘brain breaks’, etc, to enhance educational experiences. Visualisers are also used with games and resources that engage all pupils. This helps the teacher to provide a fun, interactive and wholesome learning environment.

ICT is incorporated into lessons through the use of interactive screens and school devices. Interactive resources linked with curricular schemes and games available on the internet provide a positive interactive learning experience. Children also have access to Chromebooks, which are used in a variety of age-appropriate ways in the classroom (e.g. updating digital portfolios, playing curriculum-linked games, creating stories using speech-to-text or typing, creating slide-decks, researching curricular topics, coding, online readers, using spreadsheets). These can be undertaken individually or in groups.

As pupils progress through the school, they may be afforded the opportunity to use ICT in increasingly independent ways, to support their learning and achieve some of the outcomes listed above. It is important to note that this list is not exhaustive, and that the opportunities and possibilities for learning presented by ICT are almost limitless. It is similarly acknowledged that pupils can become distracted by material that is not connected to their learning, particularly when they develop the skills necessary to navigate online. Thus, pupils will not have unfettered access to school digital resources.

We recognise the potential of ICT to enhance the learning opportunities for pupils with special needs. SET has access to school devices, which can be used for both learning and assessment in areas such as literacy, numeracy, fine motor skills, sensory therapy and social skill development. ICT is also useful in supporting learning through the use of typing. ICT can also be useful as a communication tool.

### **Current Infrastructure**

- Devices are connected to the school's wireless network, including networked printing
- Each classroom has an Interactive Whiteboard
- There are 20 tablets in the school stored in the charging trolley.
- There are 30 Chromebooks in the school for pupil use, stored in the charging trolley.
- There are laptops and chromebooks for staff use
- Each classroom is fitted with Wifi, which is networked to the router
- The school iPad is used by staff to photograph/video class activities & pupil work
- There is a desktop PC in the office
- The school is equipped with a colour printer/photocopier/scanner
- Staff are encouraged to attend ICT courses for up-skilling and continuous professional development
- Koyotech is the main supplier of ICT equipment and devices to our school

### **ICT Co-ordination**

- The school principal holds responsibility as ICT coordinator
- Any IT faults are reported to the ICT coordinator
- The ICT coordinator keeps staff informed of professional development opportunities, useful websites and software
- The ICT coordinator has responsibility for the school website & social media, though all teachers are expected to provide content

### **Donations**

We welcome and appreciate any donation from corporate/private organisations

### **Health and Safety Aspects**

All new computers purchased comply with European regulations regarding radiation

### **School Website**

- The school hosts a website at [www.kilbehennynationalschool.com](http://www.kilbehennynationalschool.com)
- School events, holidays and other news items are regularly added
- School policies are available for download from this site
- Monthly school newsletter is available to view from our website
- Our school twitter account is synced with our school website

### **Ratification of ICT Policy**

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 22nd March 2023. The Policy will be evaluated on an ongoing basis, and will be reviewed in line with the school's policy review & development plan.

This policy was reviewed on: 22nd March 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of BoM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal/Secretary to the BoM