Scoil Chlochair Mhuire

Our Digital Learning Plan 2023/2024

Introduction

The school Digital Literacy Plan is in compliance with the Department of Education circular 0001/2017 and is embedded as part of our wider School Self-Evaluation process. The ultimate aim of the plan is to support, promote and effectively resource digital learning across all subject areas so as to allow for more effective teaching and learning..

School Details:
- **Scoil Chlochair Mhuire is a co-educational school in Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork.** We currently we have over 300 pupils between the ages of 3 and 13 attending the school. There are currently 16 class teachers and a Special Educational Needs (SEN) team.

School Mission Statement
- *To develop a love of learning and a curiosity for life. We focus on the holistic development of children in a vibrant, caring, Christian school community with positive interaction between pupils, parents, school staff and the wider community.*

Vision for Digital Technologies

In line with the guidance provided by the National Council for Technology in Education (NCTE), the approach in **Scoil Chlochair Mhuire** is to emphasise the integration of digital learning across the curriculum, in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Therefore Digital Learning (previously ICT) is not a subject or a curriculum in its own right. It is a tool that can add value to the teaching and learning process when it is used appropriately.

The purpose of computer literacy is the same as all teaching and learning, to awaken and to support the development of intellectual curiosity. Scoil Chlochair Mhuire recognises that a wide variety of opinions regarding the value that digital technologies have in education exist in our school community.

We are conscious of the fact that we are educating children who live in a technological age (digital natives) and so our teaching and learning must reflect that reality. Pedagogically, digital learning can be highly motivating for the learner and particularly for those children who find the more traditional methodologies of the school setting constraining. In that light, we will strive to maximize the potential for children's learning using digital technologies, where appropriate. Our vision for digital learning in Scoil Chlochair Mhuire centers on a balanced approach – ensuring that digital technologies are integrated into lessons, when appropriate, and used only to enhance the pupil's learning experience. We also aim to ensure that our pupils begin to

develop a critical appreciation of the role of digital technologies in society and develop habits which reflect an ethical and responsible use of these technologies.

Scoil Chlochair Mhuire aims to integrate digital technologies into the student experience and foster an environment of support and innovation. School leadership will provide resources and cultivate a supportive and collaborative teaching and learning environment for integrating technology as a meaningful and effective part of the educational process. We aim that students will leave our school as confident, creative and productive users of new technologies, including digital technologies, and understand the impact of those technologies on society.

Scoil Chlochair Mhuire recognises the partnership between the school and parents as being imperative for providing students with life-long skills. Digital technologies will play a part in maintaining the links with home and regularly educate and inform parents of the best practices for digital learning initiatives at school and at home. Links with home are easily implemented via e-newsletters, e-mail, website news, and texts to parent. Digital Technologies are used for projects, when appropriate. The school website, Instagram and Facebook accounts provide parents and the wider world with an up-to-date view of daily activities and sports events such as football/camogie matches.

1.3 Brief account of the use of digital technologies in the school to date:
- All teachers have access to a laptop
- 40 ipads in use throughout the school
- Assistive Technology - currently 7 students
- Each classroom is furnished with a projector/interactive whiteboard
- School website www.carrigtwohillps.ie
- School Social Media: Facebook & Instagram

2. The focus of this Digital Learning Plan
We undertook a digital learning evaluation in our school during the period from June 2003 and October 2023. We evaluated our progress using the following sources of evidence:

- Whole staff survey (June 2003)
- Staff based focus group (September and October 2023)

2.3. These are a summary of our strengths with regards digital learning

- Internet safety addressed with both parents and students each year
- Access to internet in all classrooms
- All classrooms have interactive boards
- School communication & administration is via Aladdin
- Each member of teaching/SNA staff has their own school email account.
- Zuludesk management system in place for ipads

2.4 This is what we are going to focus on to improve our digital learning practice further

- To further encourage the use of digital technologies across the curriculum and to ensure that students are exposed to digital learning in all subject areas
- To engage with modules of learning in the area of online safety and online etiquette. Bring same online courses to the attention of parents. Invite guest speakers to speak to parents and students.
- Continually seek staff input at periodic reviews of the digital learning plan.
- Establish a peer training leadership team to encourage and ensure the increased confidence among their colleagues in ICT proficiency.

Digital Learning Action Plan

Target	To further encourage the use of digital technologies across the curriculum and to ensure that students are exposed to digital learning in all subject areas
Timeframe	September 2023 – June 2026
Persons/Groups Responsible	School Management, SSE Co-ordinator, all Teachers, students and parents.
Criteria Success	Students and staff will be able to show a greater confidence in their use of technology to support the learning in the school.

Target	To engage with modules of learning in the area of online safety and online etiquette. Bring same online courses to the attention of parents. Invite guest speakers to speak to parents and students.
Timeframe	September 2023 – June 2026
Persons/Groups Responsible	School Management, SSE Co-ordinator, all Teachers, students and parents.
Criteria Success	Greater awareness and discussion will be generated across the wider school community pertaining to internet safety.

Target	To identify appropriate CPH for staff in the area of Digital Literacy. To encourage peer-learning and foster a positive atmosphere of collaboration among the staff with regards to digital upskilling.
Timeframe	Ongoing
Persons/Groups Responsible	School Management, SSE Co-ordinator, all Teachers, students and parents.

Criteria Success	The increase of the number of teachers using digital technologies as part of their teaching practice across a wide range of curriculum subjects to such an extent that teachers' confidence and comfort levels are constantly increasing in this area.

Target	Continually seek staff input at periodic reviews of the digital learning plan.
Timeframe	September 2023 – June 2026/Ongoing
Persons/Groups Responsible	School Management, SSE Co-ordinator, all Teachers, students and parents.
Criteria Success	Teachers give updates at staff meetings in relation to new digital initiatives use throughout classroom practice.

Target	Establish a peer training leadership team to encourage and ensure the increased confidence among their colleagues in ICT proficiency.
Timeframe	Ongoing
Persons/Groups Responsible	School Management, SSE Co-ordinator, all Teachers, students and parents.
Criteria Success	A broadening skill-base amongst the wider staff. Teachers to minute progress reports as part of subject planning meetings.

Target	Identify and provide efficient resourcing as to allow all staff to continue to operate with the best digital hardware available to the school, including laptops, iPads and admin service (Aladdin, etc.) of a user-friendly and efficient nature. To liaise with the BOM in relation to expenditure allowed for under the ICT grant (where available) and annual budget.
Timeframe	September 2023 – June 2026
Persons/Groups Responsible	School Management, SSE Co-ordinator, all Teachers, students and parents.
Criteria Success	To allow the school to remain up-to-date with the provision of technology in the school and to be able to respond efficiently to new technological initiatives and programmes. To continue to provide students with the best access to educational learning through the school's provision of sufficient equipment/devices.