Linn
Primary School
and
Nursery Unit

ICT Policy

August 2021

At Linn Primary School our vision is to create motivated 'life-long' learners through the use of ICT to enhance and extend learning and teaching across the whole curriculum. As ICT is continually developing and new technologies emerging, we as a school will strive to give all pupils the skills to prepare them for a future in which ICT is an integral part of society.

Our vision encompasses the following aims:

- ICT will be embedded into every day school life by enabling pupils to explore, express, exchange, evaluate and exhibit their work.
- To provide opportunities to enable all our staff, pupils and parents to be confident, competent and independent users of ICT.
- To provide an environment where access to ICT resources is natural and commonplace.
- To ensure that ICT has a fundamental role in developing and enhancing our school's key learning aims in promoting the pupils' educational, physical and social needs.
- To use ICT to develop an online community, sharing ideas and resources between pupils, staff, parents, Board of Governors, others schools and the wider community.

Introduction

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is changing the lives of everyone. UICT is a generic term used to denote the use of computers, video and telecommunications. It extends to the use of multi-media computers, tablets, mobile phones, gaming consoles etc.

We aim to enable our pupils to find, explore, analyse, exchange and present information. We also focus on developing skills necessary for children to be able to use information in a discriminating and effective way.

Linn Primary School meets the requirements set out within the Northern Ireland Curriculum and develops the use of the 5E's within the tasks already being carried out
- Explore
- Express
- Exchange
- Evaluate
- Exhibit

ICT forms part of the School Development Plan and is reviewed annually.

Linn Primary School is well equipped with
- 30 laptops/workstations set up in the ICT suite
- 70 pupil ipads with an additional 56 ipad mini's provided for school linkup project.
- Each classrmoom has 1 desktop and additional laptops.
- 48 Additional chromebooks on loan from EA for home learning

Each class has access to
- 1 class PC
- an interactive whiteboard/panel
- printing facilities
- spheros/drones
- green screen
- beebots
- MakeyMakey
- Programmable coding Lego
- ipad connection to interactive whiteboard/apple tv in each room
- staff individual ipad and apple pencil

Strategies for use of ICT

- ICT is not taught as a distinct subject, but it is a tool to be used as appropriate throughout the curriculum.
- All pupils are given equal access.
- ICT is an entitlement for all pupils.
- Common tasks are set that are open-ended and can have a variety of responses
- We provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability and experience of the child.
- Use of ICT at home will be encouraged through projects, homework and the use of online collaboration exercises which can be researched through a home computer system or at the local library.
- Seesaw for Schools used for home learning, link with parents and showcasing and also for any remote learning.
- Children should continue to be encouraged to access and make use of the school website which is regularly updated www.linnps.com

ICT Competences

At Linn Primary School we endeavour to help our pupils to develop competence in the use of ICT.

ICT competence is concerned with:
- Learning about ICT – developing the knowledge and skills required to use ICT effectively and to apply these in a range of contexts.

- Learning through ICT – developing the skills required to access and use information from a range of electronic sources, interpret it and use it effectively.
- Learning with ICT – applying the skills in their own learning either at school, at home or in the community.

Pupils accessing the World Wide Web

For all information related to this see Linn Primary School's Policy on E-Safety

ICT and the Northern Ireland Curriculum

ICT is embedded across the curriculum in Linn Primary School.

Literacy
ICT is a major contributor to the teaching of Literacy
- Children learn how to draft, edit and revise text
- Children can create, develop, present and publish ideas and opinions visually or orally.
- They learn how to improve the presentation of their work by using desktop publishing and presentational software.
- Practise vocabulary skills through apps.

Numeracy
Many ICT activities build upon the mathematical skills of the children
- Children use ICT in Numeracy to collect data, make predictions, analyse results and present information graphically.
- They explore mathematical models eg use of Beebots, Scratch, Logo and simple spreadsheets.
- Use of apps to build up basic mathematical skills.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU)
ICT makes a contribution to the teaching of PDMU as children learn to work together in a collaborative manner.
- They develop a sense of global citizenship by using the internet.
- Through the discussion of moral issues related to electronic communication, children develop a view about the use and misuse of ICT.
- They also gain knowledge and understanding of the interdependence of people around the world.
- Pupils have the opportunity to gain understanding of other cultures through global partnership.

Creative and Expressive
ICT offers children the freedom to express their own ideas creatively and to experience the designs of others.

- Children will have the opportunity to develop their creativity through a range of network software, apps and digital technologies.
- They can explore the Internet to gain access to a wealth of images and information about world famous pieces.

World Around Us
ICT transcends the barriers of distance and opens up the world as an easily accessible global community allowing children to experience the past, present and future of the world they live in.

Inclusion
Linn Primary School's ICT facilities are available for use by all pupils and staff. All children are given access to ICT regardless of gender, race, physical or sensory disability. ICT can impact on the quality of work that children can produce and it can increase their confidence and motivation. Additional chromebooks are available for loan for families identified under the Free School Meals and Special Needs registers. Acceptable use forms are completed by parents before these are allowed to be taken off site.

Progression, Monitoring, Assessing and Evaluating

Progression
- All children develop and learn at their own pace.
- Progression is assured through a range of increasingly challenging activities covering all areas of ICT and embedded in the Northern Ireland Curriculum.
- Each class teacher ensures that a record is maintained of ICT skills, these are completed and passed on each year.

Foundation Stage
- Tasks are developed within each year group within the existing curricular areas and will allow for the development of basic skills.

Key Stage 1 and 2
- Tasks from CCEA Assessment are assigned appropriately throughout year groups with 3 tasks per year.

Monitoring
- Evidence covering all areas of ICT are gathered within each pupil's online folder of work/Seesaw folder for ipad work.
- It is currently the responsibility of the ICT Co-ordinator to monitor the standard and progress being made by gathering appropriate evidence throughout the school year.

Assessing
- Evidence is currently submitted through ICT Assessment to the ICT Co-ordinator. Evidence may also be submitted to CCEA as part of moderation within the Using ICT Cross Curricular Skills.

Evaluating
- Children are expected to evaluate the tasks completed identifying areas of strength and for improvement.
- Evidence gathered by ICT Co-ordinator will be evaluated and shared with the teacher.

ICT Co-ordinator

- It is the responsibility of the ICT co-ordinator to assist all teachers with the implementation of this policy.
- The ICT Co-ordinator has the responsibility for the management of the resources, which are required for the implementation of this policy.
- The ICT Co-ordinator will disseminate information regarding new developments in ICT to other members of staff and also manage any required INSET training.
- It will be the responsibility of the ICT Co-ordinator to ensure that the system of reviewing this policy keeping it up to date in line with changing technologies.
- The ICT Co-ordinator will be responsible for the updating of policy, action plans and internet guidelines and informing staff of aforementioned documents.
- The ICT Co-ordinator will log and liaise with C2K/Capita in the maintenance of the hardware and software within the school.
- The school will promote and provide organised CPD to staff to help ensure they are kept abreast of any emerging technologies.