



SAINT FINIAN'S NATIONAL SCHOOL

# Digital Learning Plan 2023 - 2024

## **1. Introduction**

This document outlines our digital learning plan for the next year. It includes our targets and actions for achieving them.

### **1.1 School Details**

St. Finian's is a mixed Primary School in Finglas South, Dublin. It has been in operation since 1975. There are over 270 pupils from Early Start to 6<sup>th</sup> class with 21 teachers on staff, 8 SNAS and 2 childcare workers and Home School Liaison Officer. The school has a strong relationship with the local community that it has established since the school opened in 1975. The school has an Interactive Whiteboard (IWB) and computer in each teacher's room, it also has 30 laptops, 30 sets of headphones and 15 devices. In some classrooms we have installed the Clevertouch IWB. We have a number of bee-bots available to support the teaching of logical thinking and problem-solving. We also have recently purchased 5 digital microscopes to enhance learning in the SESE curriculum. The current focus of our DEIS plan is PE, Maths, Literacy, Parental Involvement, Attendance, Partnership with Others, and Wellbeing

### **1.2 School Vision**

We are committed to using digital technologies to enhance teaching, learning and assessment. We envision developing the use of digital technologies at the school using the Digital Learning Framework as a tool for reflecting on and planning the development of ICT at the school. We envision using digital technologies to enable pupils to carry out enquiries and develop learning projects as part of SESE at the school. We envision that pupils will use digital technologies to record information and carry out research on topics and to communicate the results of their findings. We envision that pupils will use digital technologies to engage in mathematical and computational thinking. We envision that pupils will use digital technologies to be creative and make short films, animations and digital storybooks using digital tools. We envisage that assessment and self-assessment of pupil's learning will be strengthened through the use of digital records of pupil's learning and online self-assessment tools. We hope that the use of digital technologies will encourage the children to become problem solvers, engaged thinkers and active learners. We envision that digital technologies will be used to include pupils with special needs as they will use assistive technology to support their learning and assessment. Given the current level of ICT usage in the school we envisage first focusing on using digital learning as an engaging and creative medium for expression where pupils can create meaningful content and increase their motivation to use digital

technologies. It is also hoped to encourage more enquiry or project based learning. We hope that this will result in fun, satisfaction and passion in their education. Teachers and pupils will have access to digital technologies to enhance learning experiences.

### 1.3 Brief account of the use of digital technologies at the school to date:

To date digital technologies have been used primarily by the teachers to deliver instruction through the IWBs. The IWBs have been a wonderful tool for accessing videos, photos and multi-media content. They have also enabled pupils to play interactive educational games that have been both engaging and informative. In some classrooms we have installed the Clevertouch whiteboards, which resemble a large tablet. These have proven to be extremely useful in delivering lessons through the use of ICT. Laptops have been used at the school to create word documents, practicing typing skills, create projects, research information and to play educational games. Pupils have used the laptops to source information but not to create their own digital content. The focus in the future will be on student engagement with digital technology for learning.

## 1. The focus of the Digital Learning Plan

We undertook a digital learning evaluation in our school during the May 2023. We gathered evidence using:

- Teacher feedback and reflection using a staff survey.
- Checklists of current equipment.
- Ongoing informal teacher discussion and collaboration around this area.
- Focus group discussion with children from 3rd - 6th classes.

## 2.1 The dimensions and domains from the Digital Learning Framework being selected

Teaching and learning: Learner Outcomes

## 2.2 The standard and statement from the Digital Learning Framework being selected

Standard	Statement
Pupils engage purposefully in meaningful learning activities	Pupils use digital technologies for sourcing, exchanging of information to develop understanding and support basic knowledge creation.

### **2.3 These are a summary of our strengths regarding digital learning**

- Some pupils are familiar with digital technologies and are able to use laptops and devices to access information.
- Some pupils have begun typing lessons using the laptops and headphones so they can follow their own typing lessons individually.
- Teachers have a good understanding of using IWB in their daily classroom teaching.
- Some pupils are very positive about using of digital technologies to create content such as animations and do this at home as a hobby.
- Some pupils really enjoy using laptops to complete work on and would like to develop this further.
- Some pupils who benefit from using assistive technology have been trained by the SEN team in using assistive technology and provided with appropriate equipment.
- Some teachers are interested in digital technologies and how they may be used to develop skills e.g. interested in coding and how this may be used to develop computational thinking.

### **2.4 What we are going to focus on to improve our digital learning practice further**

- We will embed the use of digital technologies into our teaching, learning and assessment practices.
- We need to upgrade some existing IWBs to the newer model Clevertouch boards into all classrooms in time as funds allow.
- Staff will engage in CPD in using Clevertouch boards to ensure optimal and efficient use of them in the classroom.
- We would like to buy a new set of tablets to upgrade the current set.
- We would like to purchase another laptop trolley to allow for more usage of them in classes during the week.
- Usage of the five digital microscopes to enhance learning in SESE.
- We would hope children would assume more control over their learning by individualising the pace in which new information is attained eg. during project work.
- Incorporate meaningful tasks that have meaning to them and their lives.
- We will continue to monitor the overall use of digital technologies in the school to identify areas for improvement.
- Active involvement of each learner in their own learning process.
- A high level of interaction and exchange of ideas between learners.

- We would like to assign more tasks where children create content digitally eg. using the laptop instead of a copy for certain literacy work.
- Children in older classes would hope to have an e-portfolio to showcase their work from during this year eg. wellbeing portfolio/6th class portfolio.
- Children will use digital technology not just to research information but to create projects using the information learned.

## **2. Our Digital Learning Plan**

On the next page we have recorded:

- The targets for improvement we have set
- The actions we will implement in order to achieve those targets
- Who is responsible for implementing, monitoring and reviewing the improvement plan
- How we will measure progress and check outcomes (criteria for success)

As we implement our improvement plan we will record:

- The progress made, and adjustments made and when
- Achievement of targets (original and modified) and when.

## Digital Learning Action Plan

<b>Domain:</b> Learner Experiences				
<b>Standard:</b> Pupils engage purposefully in meaningful learning activities				
<b>Statement:</b> Pupils use digital technologies for sourcing, exchanging of information to develop understanding and support basic knowledge creation.				
<b>Target:</b> Pupils will source, create and share curricular-based digital content independently, appropriate to their class level, on a regular basis using their knowledge in digital technologies.				
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Remits</b>	<b>Success Criteria</b>	<b>Resources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils will regularly share the digital content created with their peers and teacher in order to gain feedback on it.</li> </ul>	Sep 2023 - June 2024	Teacher & pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers will have engaged in CPD in using digital technology.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laptops</li> <li>IWBs/Clevertouch smart boards</li> <li>digital microscopes</li> <li>I-pads and tablets</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils from 3rd will learn basic skills of microsoft office to support their work eg. font size/type, bold, underline, highlight, save, heading.</li> </ul>	Sep 2023 - June 2024	Teacher & pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By June 2023 teachers will have enabled pupils to use devices to research information and create digital content.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils from 3rd will engage with online typing lessons, using individual headphones</li> </ul>	Sep 2023 - June 2024	Teacher & pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils will use digital content to communicate their findings in enquiries and projects thus working on creating digital content.</li> </ul>	

<p>for independent success, to improve correct typing skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils from 4th will complete one written task a week by instead typing it on their device.</li> <li>• All Pupils will have 2 hour long slots a week with devices in order to build and maintain digital skills learned.</li> <li>• We will purchase more devices (ipads or tablets) in order to enable pupils to create digital content (eportfolios etc) more freely and more frequently.</li> <li>• We will embed the use of digital technologies</li> </ul>	<p>Sep 2023 - June 2024</p> <p>Sep 2023 - June 2024</p> <p>Sep 2023 - June 2024</p> <p>Sep 2023 - June 2024</p>	<p>Teacher &amp; pupils</p> <p>ICT Co-ordinator, Teacher &amp; pupils</p> <p>ICT Co-ordinaotor &amp; Management</p> <p>All staff</p>	<p>Pupil's in 5th and 6th classes will begin an eportfolio.</p> <p>Pupil's create digital content and show evidence of internet based research in their work.</p> <p>Project based work with digital content as a media of communicating results and artefacts will be a standard practice at the school.</p> <p>Pupil's will use digital microscopes as part of their SESE work on living things, materials and earth science.</p> <p>Extra trolley of devices will enable the whole school more frequent access to such devices.</p>	
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<p>into our teaching, learning and assessment practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to upgrade existing IWB in classrooms to ensure all classes are exposed to using a Clevertouch smart board.</li> <li>• Teachers will engage in CPD on digital technologies during Croke Park hours.</li> <li>• Digital microscopes will be used to support learning especially in the SESE area across the whole school.</li> <li>• Pupils in 5th and 6th classes will not just research but will create projects using their digital devices.</li> <li>• Children from 3rd - 6th will receive talks about cybersafety</li> </ul>	<p>Sep 2023 - June 2024</p> <p>Sep 2023 - June 2024</p> <p>Sep 2023 - June 2024</p> <p>Sep 2023 - June 2024</p> <p>Sep 2023 - June 2024</p>	<p>ICT Co-ordinator &amp; Management</p> <p>ICT co-ordinator</p> <p>Teachers &amp; pupils</p> <p>Teachers &amp; pupils</p>	<p>Clevertouch smart boards will enable the children to have more involvement in the digital aspects of the lessons.</p> <p>Ongoing individual typing lessons will ensure the children are using and maintaining a lifelong skill.</p> <p>Cybersafety talks will ensure children are informed of the dangers of the internet and how to use it correctly.</p> <p>Use of class Dojo throughout the school year will create an open and positive forum for parent teacher communication.</p> <p>Classroom Dojo can be used to share the children's created digital content to involve and update parents.</p>	
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<p>from an external source.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers will continue to use Class Dojo as a form of digital communication with parents.</li> </ul>	<p>Sep 2023 - June 2024</p>	<p>ICT co-ordinator, Management, teachers &amp; pupils</p> <p>All staff</p>		
<p><b>Evaluation procedures:</b> Feedback at staff meetings, ongoing consultations with staff and students, surveys of parents and children's opinions.</p>				