

Kilcolgan Educate Together

Our Self-Evaluation Report and Improvement Plan 2018 – 2019

Digital Learning

1. Introduction

This document records the outcomes of our current digital learning plan, including targets and the actions we will implement to meet the targets.

1.1 School Details:

Kilcolgan Educate Together NS is a vertical, co-educational national school under the patronage of Educate Together. There is currently a pupil enrolment of 224. There are presently 13.5 teachers on staff and 5 Inclusion Support Assistants (ISAs/ SNAs). The school derives much of its population from Oranmore, Gort, Ardrahan, Kinvara and Craughwell areas within south County Galway. Currently we have a bank of 16 tablets in school, 10 MacBooks and interactive whiteboards available within each class.

1.2 School Vision:

We feel that it is important that our pupils are being provided with meaningful opportunities to develop their digital competencies so that they will have the knowledge and skills needed to compete and succeed within our global community. The ethos of our school is that each child should learn and achieve to the best of his/ her ability and that we work in partnership with parents. We aim that pupils will engage with technology in a meaningful way. As educators digital technology can help us in planning learning activities and monitoring and assessing progress. We aspire to instil in our pupils a sense of critical awareness when working in an online environment. We will focus on such aspects as communicating in an online environment with others and sourcing appropriate material online.

The vision of our school community for digital learning is to realise the potential of digital technologies to create 21st century learning experiences that enrich the pupils' learning and develop their transferable skills.

These learning experiences will enhance their creativity, empower them to become engaged thinkers and problem solvers while taking ownership of their own learning. This will lead to the experience of enjoyment, satisfaction, passion and success in their education and lifelong learning.

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

- The school has a suite of 16 iPads, 10 Macbooks for the children's use. A small number of children have a personal iPad (Assistive technology). Each class teacher has a laptop or desktop and an interactive whiteboard. There is a server and a good broadband connection.
- Online CPD is periodically accessed by school management and staff
- School website is regularly utilised to communicate and disseminate information to the school community.
- Teachers utilise online messaging to inform parents and carers of upcoming events and activities that are taking place within classrooms.
- Teachers communicate with each other via a personal school email address and share resources via a server.
- iPads are utilised by students on a continuous basis to research and source information to support pupil writing experiences across the curriculum.
- iPads are used in the junior classes for reinforcement games (e.g. in maths)
- Students within the upper school periodically generate class presentations about curriculum-related subject matter.
- iPads are periodically used to assist in taking digital images, which are downloaded, printed and utilised within curriculum-related art initiatives.
- Web-based resources are utilised by staff throughout the school to support daily teaching and learning experiences.
- We currently use Aladdin to record student data.
- Google Forms is used when conducting surveys – parents, pupils and staff

2. The focus of this Digital Learning Plan

Our current SSE focus is the development of Digital Teaching and Learning through the scaled implementation and eventual whole school use of the application SeeSaw to be utilised for the construction of student e-portfolios. This application will be used for re-teaching critical concepts, reinforcement and review of learning objectives prioritised by staff across the curriculum. Cloud based storage associated with this application allows for memory thresholds associated with ongoing digital storage of pupil content to be overcome; cost effectiveness to be achieved, a dependable disaster recovery element to be included and online security of content to be maintained.

As the development of student e-portfolios is our focus in SSE, we chose to focus on student use of the specific digital technology SeeSaw to foster active engagement of learners, collect ongoing meaningful evidence of student achievement and record milestones in pupil development throughout the curriculum. We undertook a digital learning evaluation in our school during the period of September 2018 – June 2018, during which we were successful in attaining the Digital Schools of Distinction Award, however this process identified that we required more laptops in order to effectively move forward in attaining future objectives. We required additional hardware thanks to a business donation. New projectors for the interactive whiteboards were also procured and introduced into each classroom in October of 2018. We are now actively undertaking the next phase of our digital learning evaluation from March 2019 - June 2019. We will gather evidence using:

- Online Surveys/ Pupil and teacher questionnaires
- Checklists
- Feedback at Staff Meetings

The focus of this data collection will be toward the end goal of developing student e-portfolios to record their teaching and learning experiences. This will allow teachers, students and parents the opportunity to review their ongoing progress, review/reinforce key concepts and celebrate success as a school community.

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

- Teaching and Learning: Learner Outcomes
- Leadership and Management: Managing the Organisation

2.2 The standards and statements from the Digital Learning Framework being selected

Standard	Statement(s)
Pupils enjoy learning, are motivated to learn and expect to achieve as learners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils use appropriate digital technologies to foster active engagement in attaining appropriate learning outcomes.• Pupils use digital technologies to collect evidence and record progress.
Pupils reflect on their own progress as learners and develop a sense of ownership of and responsibility for their learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils use digital technologies to collect evidence, record and reflect on their progress, and develop their competence as self-directed learners.
Manage the school's human, physical and financial resources so as to create and maintain a learning organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The board of management ensures the provision and maintenance of digital teaching aids and equipment to a very high standard.

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

- Teacher confidence in using technology is good to very good.
- Teachers make good use of the server.
- Staff members embed digital technologies across the curriculum. Many teachers have already done so. Staff actively use web-based content to complement their teaching and learning practice and regularly utilise this content to support pupil independent practice / checking for understanding.
- Pupil proficiency is good in using digital technology and pupil's regularly use digital technology for research, reinforcement and review activities.
- Staff have identified apps and programmes that are well suited to learning objectives (e.g. Explain Everything)
- The school website is kept up to date and class teachers all maintain their own page, with the principal maintaining the rest of the website.
- There is good digital communication intra-staff and with parents. Teachers all have a work email address. Updates are all done online and emails are sent in preference to notes in school bags.
- The school's digital infrastructure is reasonable. There is need for growth but what we have is of good quality.
- There are some apps that are being used between home and school e.g. TT Rockstars.

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

- Staff will engage in in-house training for the SeeSaw application in order to facilitate a greater use of this form of digital technology by pupils within their learning process and eventual generation of an e-portfolio.
- We will set up peer support for focus group staff members to increase competence and confidence in embedding digital technologies in teaching, learning and assessment.
- Design activities where pupils use digital technology through an e-portfolio to support and enhance learning in different curricular areas and demonstration of student comprehension and learning objective attainment. Ongoing collection of learning milestones and teaching of key concepts will allow students and parents to review scaffolded key concepts whenever required.
- Purchase tablets for the teachers to allow quick uploads to SeeSaw and safe storage of photographs etc.
- Purchase a further suite of tablets for the students in order to allow one tablet per pupil in a class.
- Try to obtain 5 more MacBooks so that there can be one laptop between two in a class.

3. Our Digital Learning plan

On the next page we have recorded:

- The **targets** for improvement we have set
- The **actions** we will implement to achieve these
- **Who is responsible** for implementing, monitoring and reviewing our 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**

Kilcolgan Educate Together Digital Learning Framework Short Term Action Plan

DOMAIN: (From Digital Learning Framework) Learner Experiences				
STANDARD(S): (From Digital Learning Framework) Pupils reflect on their progress as learners and develop a sense of ownership of and responsibility for their learning				
STATEMENT(S): (From Digital Learning Framework) Pupils use digital technologies to collect evidence, record and reflect on their progress, and develop their competence as self-directed learners.				
Targets: (What do we want to achieve?) Pupils will create e-portfolios on SeeSaw for the Student Led Conferences 2020				
ACTIONS (What needs to be done?)	TIMEFRAME (When is it to be done by?)	REMITTS (Who is to do it?)	SUCCESS CRITERIA (What are the desired outcomes?)	RESOURCES (What resources are needed?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each teacher in Support will identify a minimum of one student and will create an e-portfolio using SeeSaw with that pupil. Two class teachers will volunteer to use SeeSaw and create a portfolio with some or all students in their class. Teachers who are familiar with SeeSaw will mentor a teacher who is not familiar with SeeSaw so that all students in the school will be working towards an e-portfolio which can then be presented to parents for Student Led Conferences 2020. 	<p>March 2019 – June 2019</p> <p>March 2019 – June 2019</p> <p>September 2019 – Easter 2020</p>	<p>DT to arrange support – support staff and two volunteer teachers</p> <p>All staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of June teachers piloting SeeSaw will have created a minimum of 6 entries with their pilot students in each of their e-portfolios. By Easter 2020, teachers and students will be using e-portfolios as part of their Student Led Conferences. Sharing good practice at staff meetings Positive feedback from parents, students and teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tablets Laptops Internet access Creativity and enthusiasm
Evaluation Procedures: Feedback at staff meetings, actual e-portfolios, feedback from parents and students				

DOMAIN: (From Digital Learning Framework) **Managing the Organisation**

STANDARD(S): (From Digital Learning Framework) **Manage the school’s human, physical and financial resources so as to create and maintain a learning organisation**

STATEMENT(S): (From Digital Learning Framework) **The board of management ensures the provision and maintenance of digital teaching aids and equipment to a very high standard.**

Targets: (What do we want to achieve?) **The school will require further technology (iPads) to assist the creation of pupil portfolios**

ACTIONS (What needs to be done?)	TIMEFRAME (When is it to be done by?)	REMITTS (Who is to do it?)	SUCCESS CRITERIA (What are the desired outcomes?)	RESOURCES (What resources are needed?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with staff in relation to needs that they identify in relation to hardware required that would maximise opportunities for Digital Learning Principal will draft a proposal for the Board of Management outlining investment required for DL. Board to assess funding and acquire technology as funds allow. 	<p>March 2019</p> <p>March 2019</p> <p>September 2019</p>	<p>Principal to consult with staff</p> <p>Principal to draft proposal</p> <p>Board of Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff identify needs that correlate with broad DL objectives Principal takes proposal to the Board of Management and Board agree to all or some of the proposal Procuring additional technology and teachers using it to create e-portfolios using SeeSaw 	<p>Technology for staff</p> <p>Technology for pupils</p> <p>(see below – Evaluation)</p>

Evaluation Procedures:

12.03.19 Staff meeting – staff identified that they would need a tablet or similar device in order to take photographs and upload to SeeSaw. If each class teacher had their own in-house tablet this would also allow students to use it to record and upload work without needing to get an iPad from the common suite. Teachers also identified that a further suite of iPads would enable each child to use a tablet in order to record their work which would be necessary if we were going to use e-portfolios going forward. Usage of the suite of Mac Books is also steadily increasing and teachers expressed that if 5 more could be secured, 1 laptop between two children would be more favourable than 1 between 3. Furthermore staff expressed satisfaction with the new projectors that were acquired earlier in the year and the principal and another teacher also acquired new laptops.