



Gilnahirk Primary School
ICT Policy

Updated March 2018

www.gilnahirkps.org.uk

Gilnahirk Primary School's ICT Vision

We aim to encourage the 'Learning Community' to be ***motivated by, gain confidence in and enjoyment from*** the use of ICT.

We aim to be ***self-evaluative*** in the use of ICT, ***reflecting*** on current practice and ***keeping abreast*** of emerging technologies.

Our Aims for ICT

To enable the 'Learning Community' to

- gain specific ICT abilities as technology advances,
- appreciate the relevance of ICT in our society,
- be safe and sensible when working on-line,
- see ICT as an essential tool for learning, communicating, controlling and understanding their environment.

To professionally develop staff by providing training and support to enable them to increase their capabilities and make the best possible use of ICT to develop and enhance their teaching, management and administrative skills.

Introduction

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is paramount to changing lives for the better. ICT is a general term used to denote the union of computers, video and telecommunications, as seen in the use of multi-media computers, mobile phones, gaming consoles etc.

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

Gilnahirk Primary School meets the requirements set out within the Northern Ireland Curriculum and develops the use of the 5Es (see below) within the tasks already being carried out in each year.

The five 'E's;

- Explore
- Express
- Exchange
- Evaluate
- Exhibit

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

Gilnahirk Primary School is well equipped with a networked laptop in each class and 30 networked PC's, 2 networked laptops in the computer suite and a group set of iPads in each year group.

Every class has access to

- a class laptop
- a laptop
- a lazerjet printer
- a colour printer
- a digital camera
- an Interactive Whiteboard
- ICT through the networked system in the ICT suite which is timetabled for 1 hour per week.

Strategies for use of ICT

- ICT is taught as a distinct subject, but is also used as a learning tool where appropriate throughout the curriculum to enhance all subject areas
- 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 continue to be encouraged through projects, homeworks and the use of Learning NI (LNI) which can be researched through a home computer system or at the local library
- Children should continue to be encouraged to access and make use of the school website which is regularly updated – www.gilnahirkps.org.uk and parents are encouraged to view their child's work/achievements on the school Twitter page.

ICT Competences

At Gilnahirk 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 Gilnahirk Primary School's Policy on the Use of the Internet, E-Safety and E-Learning policy (all of which are available to download from our school website)

ICT and the Northern Ireland Curriculum

• Literacy

ICT is a major contributor to the teaching of Literacy

- o Children learn how to draft, edit and revise text.
- o Children can create, develop present and publish ideas and opinions visually or orally.
- o They learn how to improve the presentation of their work by using desktop publishing and presentational software.

• Numeracy

Many ICT activities build upon the mathematical skills of the children.

- o Children use ICT in Numeracy to collect data, make predictions, analyse results, and present information graphically.
 - o They can explore mathematical models e.g. use of BeeBots.
 - o Many interactive whiteboard activities are used to enhance the teaching of numeracy throughout the school.

• Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) and Citizenship

ICT makes a contribution to the teaching of PDMU and citizenship as children learn to work together in a collaborative manner.

- o They develop a sense of global citizenship by using the Internet.
- o Through the discussion of moral issues related to electronic communication, children develop a view about the use and misuse of ICT as exemplified through the use of LNI.
- o They also gain a knowledge and understanding of the interdependence of people around the world.

• Creative and Expressive

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

- o Children will have the opportunity to develop their creativity through a range of network software and digital technology.
- o 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

Gilnahirk 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.

The Special Needs teacher has access to a networked PC as well as five iPads and an interactive whiteboard to support her everyday teaching and learning strategies.

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.
 - i. In Foundation Stage – tasks developed within each year group within existing curricular areas.
 - ii. In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 – 6 tasks from the CCEA Accreditation Scheme are selected for their suitability throughout the year groups.

Monitoring

- Evidence, in the form of children's work, covering all areas of ICT is stored within each pupil's folder.
- It is currently the responsibility of the ICT co-ordinator to monitor the standard and progress made by each pupil by gathering appropriate evidence termly during each school year. This is in preparation for the statutory assessment of Using ICT by every teacher from P3-P7.

Assessing

- Evidence gathered each year is assessed by the ICT Co-ordinator in collaboration with the class teacher/year group co-ordinator.

Evaluating

- Evidence gathered each year is summarized within a self-evaluative report.

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.
- The ICT co-ordinator will be responsible for any staff INSET in the development of ICT.
- It will be the responsibility of the ICT co-ordinator to ensure that the system for reviewing this policy is initiated.
- The ICT co-ordinator will be responsible for the updating of policies

and Internet guidelines and informing staff of aforementioned documents.

Mr David Corbett (Principal)

Mr Gary Halliday (Vice-Principal)

Mr Matthew Wright (ICT Co-ordinator)