St. Thomas' Senior National School

Our Digital Learning Plan

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:

- St. Thomas' Senior National School is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Archbishop of Dublin. While it is a school with a Catholic ethos it has due recognition for pupils of all other faiths or of no faith.
- Our school motto *"Every Child is Valued"* is inherent in everything we do.
- We are committed to creating a caring, supportive and respectful atmosphere at school where every pupil can achieve their full potential. Our primary aim is to promote the academic, moral, physical, social and emotional development of our pupils appropriate to their age and abilities in a caring, safe and nurturing environment.
- The ethos of the school is reflected in our Code of Behaviour with the emphasis on respect for self, for others and for the environment. We commit ourselves to creating an ethos of care, concern, support and respect throughout the school and we place an emphasis on the pastoral care of our pupils.
- We have an amazing school community made up of fantastic children, enthusiastic and dedicated staff and very supportive parents. There are currently 430 pupils in the school from 3rd to 6th class. There are 39 teachers, 12 of whom work in special education contexts, and 12 Inclusion Support Assistants (ISAs).
- **Website:** www.stthomas.ie
  Email: info@stthomas.ie
  Phone: 01 452 6555

1.2 School Vision:

- St. Thomas' Senior National School is becoming increasingly engaged with ICT and embraces the integration of ICT in teaching, learning and assessment across the curriculum. Through this Digital Learning Plan, we aim to implement the school curriculum through the use of ICT effectively, taking into account the level of ICT resources available in our school.
- We promote a culture of collective, collaborative and reflective practice amongst staff (teachers and ISAs) when using digital technologies.
- It is also our aim that pupils will have access to current digital technologies and we will match future investment to the learning needs of the pupils.
- We want to use Digital Learning as an exciting, engaging and creative medium for expression whereby the pupils can create meaningful digital content as opposed to passively engaging with digital technology.
- We also recognise the positive impact that digital technologies can have on the learning of pupils with special and additional needs and aim to harness this potential in our school moving forward.

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

- Every teacher and pupil has a school Google for Education account and Google Drive for storing their files.
- Every teacher has a laptop for planning, accessing shared resources, collaborating, communicating and projecting content onto the IWB.
- Every classroom has an IWB for displaying educational content and for interactive activities.
- Every classroom has at least 1 PC for research purposes and the use of educational platforms.
- Every standard has shared access to a visualiser for giving demonstrations and showing items / objects / documents via the IWB.
- Every classroom has shared access to 4 trolleys of 25 x chromebooks that are used in the following ways: Google Classroom for teachers to assign digital tasks and projects; Google Slides for presentations; Google Docs for word processing; Google Sheets for tables and graphs; Google Forms for assessment; Google Computer Science for coding; Google Arts & Culture for visiting geographical and historical landmarks around the world; Reading Eggs for literacy; Mathletics for numeracy; Nessy for pupils with dyslexia; Touch-Type, Read & Spell for literacy; Book Creator and Minecraft.
- Every classroom has shared access to 1 set of 30 x virtual reality headsets that use the Google Expeditions platform.
- Every classroom has shared access to 1 set of 30 x Nintendo DSs for mathematical skills and problem solving strategies.
- Every classroom has access to a shared 75' and 65' mobile interactive touchscreen displaying educational content and for interactive activities.
- Support and resource teachers have access to 10 x tablet devices to help pupils with additional needs.
- Every classroom has shared access to cameras and a camcorder for taking photos and videos for projects and assessment purposes.
- Specific pupils have been granted access to assistive technology.

2. The focus of this Digital Learning Plan

We undertook a digital learning evaluation in our school in February 2018 and again in January 2019. We evaluated our progress using the following sources of evidence:

- Camara Education School Audit
- Google Form Survey for Class Teachers
- Google Form Survey for SEN Teachers
- Feedback by Email
- Feedback at Staff Meetings

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

- Teaching and Learning: Learner Outcomes
- Teaching and Learning: Teachers' Individual Practice
- Teaching and Learning: Teachers' Collaborative Practice
- Leadership and Management: Leading Teaching and Learning

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

Standard	Statement(s)
Pupils enjoy their learning, are motivated to learn and achieve as learners.	**Pupils use appropriate digital technologies to foster active engagement in attaining appropriate learning outcomes.**

The teacher selects and uses teaching approaches appropriate to the learning objective and to pupils' learning needs.	**Teachers use appropriate digital technologies and teaching strategies to enable the development of pupils' literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum.**
Teachers value and engage in professional development and professional collaboration.	**Teachers engage in professional development and work with colleagues to help them select and align digital technologies with effective teaching strategies to expand learning opportunities for all pupils.**
Foster teacher professional development that enriches teachers' and pupils' learning.	**The principal and other leaders in the school support teachers' continuing professional development to develop teacher competence in the use of digital technologies, to support high-quality teaching and learning.**

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

- Pupils in the school are quite proficient in using digital technology.
- Some staff members are engaged in a number of digital technology projects.
- Staff members are motivated to gain CPD relating to embedding digital technologies across the curriculum, with some already having done so.
- Funding available to purchase equipment as required.

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

- Staff will engage in CPD (identified in the previous teacher survey) to increase competence and confidence in embedding digital technologies in teaching, learning and assessment.
- Staff will facilitate a greater use of digital technologies by pupils and give them the opportunity to create more digital content linked to the school plan.
- Staff will design activities where pupils use digital technologies to support and enhance teaching, learning and assessment in different curricular areas.

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**

Digital Learning Action Plan

DOMAIN: (From Digital Learning Framework) Teaching and Learning: Learner Outcomes
STANDARD(S): (From Digital Learning Framework) Pupils enjoy their learning, are motivated to learn and achieve as learners.
STATEMENT(S): (From Digital Learning Framework) Pupils use appropriate digital technologies to foster active engagement in attaining appropriate learning outcomes.
TARGETS: (What do we want to achieve?) Pupils will create and share curricular-based digital content, appropriate to their class level at least once a month.

ACTIONS (What needs to be done?)	TIMEFRAME (When is it to be done by?)	PERSONS / GROUPS RESPONSIBLE (Who is to do it?)	CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS (What are the desired outcomes?)	RESOURCES (What resources are needed?)
• Staff will engage in (identified) CPD to increase competence and confidence in embedding digital technologies in teaching, learning and assessment. • Pupils will create curricular-based digital content at least once a month. • Pupils will regularly share their digital content with their peers and get feedback on it. • Staff will share their experience using digital technologies in their classrooms with each other and engage in peer support where appropriate.	• Regularly • Monthly • Monthly • Regularly	• Staff • Pupils • Pupils • Staff	• Teacher will feel more competent and confident using digital technologies to support the teaching, learning and assessment in their class. • Pupils will create curricular-based digital content at least once a month. • Pupils will regularly share their digital content with their peers and get feedback on it. • Staff will share ideas / good practice at standard planning meetings and share resources on the Team Drive.	• Chromebooks • Tablets • VR Headsets • Nintendo DSs • Digital Projector • Online Tools / Platforms - Reading Eggs - Mathletics - Google Classroom - Google Docs - Google Slides - Google Sheets - Google Forms - Google Arts & Culture - Google CS First - Book Creator - Nessy - Touch-Type, Read, Spell - Minecraft - SEN Apps

EVALUATION PROCEDURES:
(How are we progressing? Do we need to make adjustments? Have we achieved our targets?)

Staff and pupil feedback using Google Forms
Feedback and sharing ideas / good practice at staff meetings / standard planning meetings / by email
Showcase pupil work on school website / at assembly