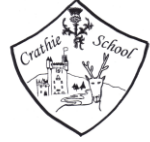




Crathie Primary School

Digital Technologies Plan

Policy and Guidance



Introduction

“We must provide our learners with relevant and contemporary experiences that allow them to successfully engage with technology and prepare them for life after school.”
Education Scotland (2012)

It is important that the pupils at Crathie Primary School are prepared for an increasingly digital world. The children are required to develop both digital literacy and digital citizenship skills, suitable for today and tomorrow's technology laden culture.

Technology is at the heart of learning at Crathie School and the children have technology available to use as required. Technology is used extensively in teaching to build a range of skills, from word processing to coding, and it is also used to highlight the potential pitfalls of social media and internet use.

At Crathie we aim to:

- Use ICT to support learning needs for all learners.
- Develop digital literacy skills in a cross curricular way.
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of e-safety.
- Discover new technologies and consider their future impact.



The Role of a Primary School in Enhancing Learning Through Technology Use

Enhancing Learning Through The Use of Digital Technology: A Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland.

The Role of our Education Establishments

To help achieve our shared objectives, our education establishments are asked to take forward the following key actions:

DEVELOP THE SKILLS OF OUR EDUCATORS

- Encourage educators to share innovative and effective practice both face-to-face and through digital platforms.
- Ensure that students and newly qualified staff are sufficiently supported in the appropriate and effective use of digital technology.
- Look for opportunities to use digital technology to engage with parents and carers, allowing them to understand the benefits of digital technology in education.
- Ensure that appropriate career-long professional learning opportunities are offered to a range of educators.
- Ensure learners are involved in sharing their digital experiences and skills and that they are given opportunities to comment on the use of digital technologies to deliver learning and teaching.

IMPROVE ACCESS

- Work with the local authority to obtain appropriate digital hardware and software that can support learning and teaching.
- Ensure all learners including those with additional support needs are able to access appropriate digital technology for learning and teaching.
- Ensure that all learners become resilient users of digital technology and can stay safe online.

ENHANCE CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT DELIVERY

- Ensure that the use of digital technology is a central consideration in the planning and delivery of any learning and teaching across Curriculum for Excellence.
- Provide a range of opportunities for learners to develop their digital skills across Curriculum for Excellence.
- Work to identify opportunities to enhance assessment using digital technologies.

EMPOWER LEADERS

- Ensure that the use of digital within their establishment aligns closely with evolving self-assessment and improvement guidance such as 'How Good is Our School?'
- Actively seek to identify existing expertise within the staff complement and ensure that their knowledge is shared with senior leaders.
- Ensure that cyber resilience and internet safety is central to all digital technology use in the establishment.
- Involve parent councils and parent/carers groups in discussions around the use of digital technology to help realise anytime/anywhere learning.



Leadership and Vision

There are many references to digital learning within our School Development Plan. Indeed, the school has invested heavily in hardware through the Pupil Equity Fund. We have purchased iPads and Chromebooks to aid teaching and learning and we now have more than 1 device to 1 pupil. Our CPD budget supports digital CPD and opportunities have been given to teaching staff to broaden skills.

Crathie School has embraced the new structure for staff at local authority level and in the role of staff Digital Leader the Principal Teacher uses platforms such as Yammer to engage in local authority developments such as the Bennachie Campus which is a local collaborative and sharing area. Staff use Technologies Experiences and Outcomes to inform planning and the Digital Learning Community to look at best practice.

Crathie School recognises the importance for e-safety learning at school. E-safety progresses through the school from developing an understanding of setting passwords to using social media. The children have also reflected upon and can discuss their digital footprint. We do, however, recognise that this is an area where we can improve through working with parents to raise their understanding of how important this issue is.

Technology is managed by the pupils, for the pupils. They take turns to store, challenge and even, at a basic level, troubleshoot issues in a collaborative manner. Beyond this, the schoolwork with the local authorities 'Ask Fred' scheme to solve technical issues.

Use of Digital Technology to Deliver the Curriculum

The children enjoy using digital technology in all areas of the curriculum. The children read e-books, develop mental maths skills, research, take photographs, film and write using technology. Examples are displayed below. During presentations and sharing learning events, children can choose to use technology. There are a range of apps available for pupils to use, depending on ability. For instance, Early Years pupils have apps such as Jolly Phonics and Puppet Pals to aid literacy skills. For older children, flipped learning platforms such as Khan Academy are used to extend understanding. Children always have the opportunity to use technology to learn independently during free play.

School Culture

Crathie School is a digital learning environment where pupils enjoy using technology to enhance their learning. There is a digital culture embedded at school where children have access as required as well as receiving more structured tuition in improving digital literacy skills.

We use technology to communicate with parents and the wider community. We have been successful in using twitter (https://twitter.com/Crathie_School) to establish partnerships and promote our work. We also use SeeSaw to communicate with parents and as a Pupil Portfolio tool. We recognise that to improve further there is a requirement to improve the relevance of the school website (<http://crathie.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>).

As well as using Pupil E-Portfolios the school has a digital learning wall where we share evidence of class work.



Professional Development

The Principal Teacher has enrolled in a “Google Education” programme which will take place in 2023. Digital learning will be put on the Improvement Plan for 2023/24 to ensure the high standard the previous principal teacher set continues.

E-safety is at the heart of learning at Crathie School. The Acceptable Use Policy is signed on an annual basis and referred to and reflected upon regularly.

Resources and Infrastructure

The school is a 1 pupil to 1 device school. The children have access to ipads and Chromebooks and can freely access these devices as and when they wish. The school has a Dash and Dot robot that is used to develop programming skills. The children have also worked on coding by using Scratch and Scratch jr. The school use Sumdog to improve mental arithmetic and spelling skills. We are about to install “Nessy” for P3/4 pupils to help with spelling. The Smart board is used as an interactive teaching tool on a regular basis. The older children use their chrome books to edit written work and send it to the teacher to check & print. They are encouraged to use their iPads and chrome books for research.

School Aims

Ensure pupils independence in adding to digital portfolios.

We use Google Classroom as a means of sharing progress with parents and we aim to ensure that all pupils are trained so that they can post content of their own learning.

We hope to introduce “Just2Easy” ([Just2easy - Award winning software tools designed for education](#)) very shortly as advised by Aberdeenshire Council. All pupils and staff will be trained to use it independently. We plan to use it as a pupil profiling tool as well as a communication tool. We share school news on Twitter regularly (at least once a week). We now have a wide following on Twitter.

Use ICT to support learning needs for all learners.

Improving attainment in literacy and numeracy is one of our priorities identified in our Standards and Quality Report (SQUIP 2022). ICT plays a key role in this priority to support learning needs. One way we do this is through digital learning games to consolidate existing learning. For example, we have invested in Sumdog (<https://www.sumdog.com/>), a learning game platform, to improve mental maths fluency and spelling. We also use ipads as a reading tool. We use Oxford Owl Online (<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>) to access a range of e-books which the children regularly use as part of guided reading tuition. We use the internet as a research tool to improve note making skills. We are also using technology to create digital portfolios where pupils take photos of best work and describe its impact.

What we will do to improve:



- Continue to invest in Sumdog to develop mental arithmetic and spelling.
- Ensure that pupils targeted in the Targeted Support Strategy have apps and tools available to them that can provide extra support with next steps.

Continue to integrate coding opportunities are readily available through play and taught lessons on a regular basis.

We aim to ensure that opportunities are available for learners to improve coding skills, improve computational thinking, understand and analyse computer technology and design, build and test computing solutions. This could be achieved in play and inquiry time weekly through perhaps, a tinker station, or coding station, or using robots such as Dash and Dot, as well as through formal teaching time.

- Use Barefoot resources to support Computing Science Curriculum.
- Ensure opportunities for Computing Science skills development through play and inquiry time.

Develop digital literacy skills in a cross curricular way.

We believe that using technology to improve digital literacy will impact positively upon other curricular areas. We teach digital literacy skills to enhance other areas of learning – from creating presentations on the Cairngorms to programming a robot to follow compass directions. For example, we write a school newspaper and contribute to a local news publication, documenting what has been happening in school using word processing software. This is done in small groups with adult guidance.

What we will do to improve:

- Learn about trustworthy and untrustworthy websites to aid research skills.
- Develop an awareness of searching, processing and managing information responsibly as identified in the Technologies Experiences and Outcomes.
(<https://education.gov.scot/Documents/Technologies-es-os.pdf>)

Continue to develop a knowledge and understanding of e-safety.

Ensuring that pupils are aware of the potential pitfalls of using technology is critical in modern Scotland. As a Gold Level Rights Respecting School we believe that children should be aware that their rights apply both on and offline. We also aim to ensure that children have strategies in place for dealing with challenges they may face online. All digital users are required to sign an Acceptable Use Policy to highlight the responsibilities that digital users have.



What we will do to improve:

- Use local police talk in connection to e-safety, inviting parents to be part of discussion.
- E-safety session for parents. Highlight websites such as Parentzone (<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>) and Go Safe Scotland (<https://www.gosafescotland.com/>) that can be used to access e-safety guidance.
- Continue to review Acceptable Use Policy.



Reviewed by	Details	Date
F. Walmsley	Removed "cash currency" for looking after technological equipment.	22.3.23
F. Walmsley	Removed last PT information & inserted current PT information & add to improvement plan.	22.3.23
F. Walmsley	Removed coding day & Seesaw	22.3.23
	Added "just2easy" & Twitter	22.3.23
F. Walmsley	Removed photos	22.3.23
L. Field	Reviewed	April 2023

Revision	Details	Date
2.	Reformatting of document	April 2023