Ballycraigy Primary School

ICT Policy

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General Statement

ICT comprises a variety of systems that handle electronically retrievable information. These include computers, programmable robots, tape recorders, calculators, digital cameras and video cameras.

ICT is concerned with the handling of electronic information and involves creating, collecting, holding, processing, presenting and communicating this information in a variety of ways for a variety of purposes.

Rationale

Why should our pupils use ICT?

- ICT can enhance the learning process across all areas of the curriculum.
- ICT enables pupils to undertake activities that would be difficult to pursue in any other way.
- ICT takes the laborious routine out of some text and information tasks giving greater scope for pupils' creativity.
- ICT can motivate and enthuse pupils.
- In the information society in which we live, pupils need to develop ICT skills in order to access relevant information.
- ICT gives pupils immediate access to richer source materials.
- ICT has the flexibility to meet the individual needs and abilities of each pupil catering for both weak and high achievers.
- ICT promotes access for pupils with learning difficulties.
- ICT offers potential for effective group work and collaborative learning.
- ICT supports different types of learners – audio, visual and kinaesthetic.

Aims

Our aims in using ICT are to:

- Extend and enhance learning across all areas of the curriculum.
- Encourage pupils to select and use ICT appropriate to the task.
- Develop practical skills in the use of ICT and the ability to apply these skills to the solving of relevant and worthwhile problems.
- Give children access to a variety of sources of information.
- Instil in children a sense of confidence, achievement and enjoyment.

Strategies for use of ICT

- ICT is not taught as a distinct subject, but is a tool to be used as appropriate throughout the curriculum.
- ICT should be integrated into each area of study to support and enrich children's learning.
- All pupils are given equal access opportunities through management of ICT use.
- ICT is offered as an entitlement for all pupils – it should not be perceived as a punishment or reward.

Progression

Pupils' ICT skills and competencies will be developed from Primary One to Primary Seven. Progression in each of the four strands of ICT has been identified and agreed by all staff.

Access
Pupils have access to ICT through class-based computers. (Viglen, legacy, laptops etc.) Pupils also have access to centrally resourced Roamers, digital cameras, scanners etc. We have an interactive whiteboard in the Library.

Internet
The school has Internet access in every classroom. Any use of the Internet will be strictly in accordance with the school's Internet Policy.
We will make use of the Internet Proficiency Scheme for Key Stage 2 pupils.

Monitoring & Evaluating

Teachers maintain records for every child containing evidence of progress in each of the four strands of ICT. (Communication, Information Handling, Modelling and Control). Samples of children's work are maintained as evidence.

Staff Development

All staff have had access to NOF training opportunities or equivalent, however the continued development of ICT capability is very important. Opportunities for further professional development of staff will be provided.