Scoil Bhríde Eglantine

Our Annual Digital Learning Plan

School Year 2024/25

This document records the outcomes of our current digital learning plan, including targets and the actions we will implement to improve teaching, learning and assessment practices using digital tools. This plan was informed by the Department of Education's 'Digital Strategy for Schools to 2027' and the Digital Learning Framework.

1.1 School Details:

Scoil Bhríde Eglantine is an all-girls Catholic Primary School in the parish of Ballinlough. There are approximately 390 children on roll here. There are currently 16 mainstream class teachers (plus two job sharing), 2 special class teachers and 5 SET teachers. The school derives its population mainly from the Douglas, Ballinlough and Rochestown areas.

1.2 School Digital Learning Vision:

In line with the guidance provided by Oide, the approach in Scoil Bhríde Eglantine is to emphasise the integration of digital learning across the curriculum, in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Therefore, Digital Learning (previously ICT) is not a subject or a curriculum in its own right. It is a tool that can add value to the teaching and learning process when it is used appropriately. The purpose of computer literacy is the same as all teaching and learning, to awaken and to support the development of intellectual curiosity.

Pedagogically, digital learning can be highly motivating for the learner and particularly for those children who find the more traditional methodologies of the school setting constraining. In that light, we will strive to maximize the potential for children's learning using digital technologies, where appropriate. Our vision for digital learning in Scoil Bhríde Eglantine, centres on a balanced approach – ensuring that digital technologies are integrated into lessons, when appropriate, and used only to enhance the pupil's learning experience. We also aim to ensure that our pupils begin to develop a critical appreciation of the role of digital technologies in society and develop habits which reflect an ethical and responsible use of these technologies.

Scoil Bhríde Eglantine aims to integrate digital technologies into the student experience and foster an environment of support and innovation. School leadership will provide resources and cultivate a supportive and collaborative teaching and learning environment for integrating technology as a meaningful and effective part of the educational process. Students will leave our school as confident, creative and productive users of new technologies, including digital technologies, and understand the impact of those technologies on society.

Scoil Bhríde Eglantine recognises the partnership between the school and parents as being imperative for providing students with life-long skills. Digital technologies will play a part in maintaining the links with home and regularly educate and inform parents of the best practices for digital learning initiatives at school and at home. Links with home are easily implemented via e-newsletters, e-mail, website news, and texts to parent. Digital Technologies are used for projects, when appropriate. The school website, X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram accounts provide parents and the wider world with an up-to-date view of daily activities and sports events such as football matches.

1.3 Brief account of our strengths with regard to digital technologies for teaching, learning and assessment in our school:
- PA and Board are willing to invest
- Many of our parents are involved in tech industry
- Staff that are willing to engage with technology
- Majority of children have access to tech at home. Many come to school with basic skills.

1.4 Brief account of the school's digital technologies infrastructure:
- All classrooms have an interactive whiteboard or interactive TV. One classroom has a 50" regular Samsung television.
- We have one laptop trolley with 32 laptops
- There is a declining number of usable iPads (5 new iPads were purchased in June 2024)
- The school hall has a laptop and projector
- There is a laptop in the staffroom designated for SNA use
- The staffroom and reception area have multimedia display screens.
- There are five laptops available for SEN use
- A number of SEN children use laptops to support their in-class learning
- The school has a GoPro camera to record school events
- The school has wireless broadband provided under the School Broadband Programme
- A school phone (Android) is used to update social media / as a camera.
- We have a school website hosted by ActonBV as well as X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram accounts.
- Aladdin is used to record student data, communicate with parents and staff, collect permission and money.
- Jotform is used to collect data around the school (e.g. student or staff surveys, gathering information on medical conditions, gathering information on new Junior Infants)
- School uses interactive programmes (e.g. Bua na Cainte, Dabbledoo & Starlight)
- We have a shared drive that is backed up to the cloud.

2. The focus of this Digital Learning Plan

We undertook a digital learning evaluation in our school during the period October 2023 to December 2023. We evaluated our progress using the following sources of evidence:

- Digital Learning Cluster Group formed: A focus group of teachers established to work on developing our digital learning plan. The DL Team group currently includes Seán Corry, Katrina Riordan, Claire O'Callaghan & Niamh Maxwell. The group was supported by Steve McSweeney of DCE Computers – IT support provider to the school. Regular meetings were scheduled to evaluate current digital practices and gather information from staff to help develop our Digital Learning Plan.

- 'Teacher Digital Learning Survey': Online digital survey was carried out among the staff. The main areas of focus were:
  - Reflection on learning, teaching and assessment practices
  - The use of digital technologies in the classroom
  - Professional collaborative review

2.1 Our previous digital learning plan(s) led to the following developments:
- This is our first digital learning plan.

2.2 This is what we are going to focus on to improve our digital learning practice further
- See digital learning action plan below.

3. Digital Learning Action Plan

Dimension: Teaching & Learning	Domain: Learner Outcomes

Standard: Pupils enjoy their learning, are motivated to learn and expect to achieve as learners

Statement(s) of Practice:
- Pupils use appropriate digital technologies to foster active engagement in attaining appropriate learning outcomes.
- Pupils use digital technologies to collect evidence and record progress.

TARGET(S): *(These are generally based on learners acquiring new knowledge, skills and/or attitudes as well as the method of attainment. They should lead to improved learner outcomes).*

- Learners will have access to appropriate digital technologies that foster active engagement.
- Teachers will design at least one learning activity per fortnight where learners will use digital technologies to engage with a learning outcome. (This should be recorded on Cúntas)

Actions are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timebound (SMART) activities that will be required to achieve that target.

ACTION (What needs to be done?)	CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS (What are the desired outcomes?)	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE (Who is to do it?)	TIMEFRAME (When is it to be done by?)	ACTION COMPLETED?
Use available technology to foster active engagement.	Teachers will include one digital learning activity per fortnight.	Class teachers	June 2025	
Children must be given the opportunity to develop their digital literacy skills.	Children will be proficient in performing age appropriate skills (see Appendix 1)	Class teachers	June 2025	
iPads / tablets need to be updated	A new class set of tablets will be purchased.	Digital Learning Team, Area leader, principal	June 2025	

MONITORING & EVALUATION PROCEDURES

How are we going to monitor our progress? Do we need to make adjustments? Have we achieved our target(s)? How do we know?

- Teachers' cuntas will reference one digital learning activity per fortnight.
- Yearly survey of teachers and pupils to gather information regarding children's newly acquired digital literacy skills.
- Funding acquired to purchase new set of tablets

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management:

Sheelagh O'Leary
Chairperson, Board of Management
Feb 11th 2025.

Geraldine O'Brien
Principal
Feb 11th 2025.