



Digital Learning Plan 2026

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:

Our school is an all-girls primary school. There is currently an enrolment of **250** pupils. There are 19 teachers, 8 of whom work in special education contexts and 9 Special Needs Assistants. Pupils in our school come from the surrounding area.

Digital hardware in the school includes the following; interactive IFS boards in all classrooms connecting to teaching laptops, and one for communal use in our school hall. All laptops are connected wirelessly to a centralised printing system. There is Wi-Fi throughout the school.

The computer room has 23 computers connected to Wi-Fi.

We have a bank of 47 iPads in the school which has been amassed over the last few years in various stages.

1.2 School Vision:

St Mary's NS Digital Learning vision recognises the capacity of ICT to motivate and inspire students, staff and parents and to build a co-operative and interactive learning environment in the school. We believe that digital technologies should be used for teaching, learning and assessment across the curriculum. Digital technology needs to be an integral part of teaching and learning in schools today. It is our aim that all pupils will have access to current digital technology and we carefully match future investment to the learning needs of the pupils. We see digital learning as enabling children and teachers to engage with the curriculum in a child centred way and to encourage creative thinking. We value student and parent feedback, and we aim to use technology to assist us in this area for example the use of Google forms as part of our SSE.

It is our intention that the school website showcases in tandem with our Social Media content (Instagram and Facebook) developed by teachers and students alike and that it becomes increasingly used as a communicative tool. It appreciates and strives to include emerging technologies that are relevant to 21st century learning, particularly those which can provide students with appropriate life-long learning skills.

St. Mary's NS recognises the importance of Digital technologies in the education of children with special educational needs and will strive to utilize the most up-to-date technology and practices to enable children to access the curriculum. Transition supports will be put in place to ensure that these continue wherever possible at home with the child and parent.

St. Mary's endeavours to provide for equity among all pupils, whereby, all pupils have equal opportunity to access curriculum content aided by the use of IT devices in the school. We aim to promote access to and fully utilise available ICT resources and upgrade them where possible on an ongoing basis. St. Mary's NS strives to encourage a positive, evolving and advancing digital learning culture among our staff, pupils and wider community, by ensuring the students experience e-learning activities regularly. We endeavour to increase the use of ICT across the curriculum to support learning and teaching.

We will at all times keep online safety and our Acceptable Use Policy to the forefront of our teaching. **Staff continue to upskill their ICT skills to aid effective practice throughout the school.**

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

- Pupils use technology to source information and become agents in their own learning as per Looking at our Schools document 2022 and Digital Strategy for Schools, Wellbeing in Education Framework for Practice.
- We have school wireless broadband supplied by Oide School Broadband Programme under the Oide Technology in Education banner.
- We have an IT contract with a company. They provide in-house support and phone support for all of our technological requirements.
- We have a contract with Spéire who provide website support for coding and maintenance issues.
- Some classes use technology to create their own digital content eg. school newspaper.
- Each teacher has their own computer in the classroom.
- Several students have been granted laptops, C-pens, headphones etc. through AT grants
- We have a networked coloured photocopier which all teachers have access to print to.
- We use the Aladdin Schools software system.
- Every staff member uses the Google Drive communication system.
- Each classroom has speakers.
- There are two visualisers in use in the school.
- We have IFS boards in every classroom in the school. We also have an IFS in our school hall for communal use.
- We have a Lapcabby (iPad/Tablet storage & charging trolley).
- Student voice is fostered through the use of game-based learning platforms such as Kahoot.
- Cúla 4 app is used in many classrooms to enhance the teaching of Irish.
- Bua na Cainte is used in all classes for the teaching of Irish.
- Spellings for Me is an online, differentiated spellings programme used in all classes from first to sixth.
- Jolly Phonics and Over the Moon are digital programmes used in our school in the teaching of literacy.
- Apps and websites that are used on the ipads that improve children's learning of Literacy include: Starfall,, Get Epic, Kahoot, storyline online, Duolingo etc.
- Apps and websites that are used on the ipads that improve children's learning of maths are as follows: TopMarks, Polypad, IXL Maths, pmc.oide.org, Planet Maths interactivities
- All classes follow our school plan for the teaching of word processing skills.
- IPads are used to support maths and reading initiatives including Station Teaching
- IPads are used on a daily basis in the learning support rooms to support individual children's needs.

2. The focus of this Digital Learning Plan

We continue to evaluate digital learning in our school. We evaluate our progress using the following sources of evidence:

- Consultation with the Digital Learning Framework
- Teacher survey
- Parent survey
- Pupil survey
- Checklists
- Teachers decide to review practices using digital technology with learners. They use the DL Framework and the six steps to guide their review.

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

Dimension: Leadership & Management; 3. Leading School Development

Dimension: Teaching & Learning; 1. Learner Outcomes

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

Standard	Statement(s)
Lead the school's engagement in a continuous process of self- evaluation	The principal and other leaders in the school keep abreast of technological changes, and ensure that actions implemented lead to measurable and identifiable improvements in learner outcomes in line with the school improvement plan.
Build and maintain relationships with parents, with other schools, and with the wider community	The school has an explicit communication strategy in place, which identifies and uses websites and social networks, to communicate effectively with the whole school community. The principal and other leaders in the school use digital technologies to enhance organisational communication with learners, parents and third parties making administrative procedures more transparent and accessible. They are committed to collaboration and knowledge exchange through partnerships with other schools, external organisations, industry and the wider community, facilitated and sustained as appropriate using digital technologies.
Pupils have the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes required to understand themselves and their relationships	Pupils have a positive attitude towards the use of digital technologies, being aware of possible risks and limitations, and have the confidence and skills to realise the benefits. Pupils can confidently protect their digital identity and manage their digital footprint.
Teaching and Learning -Domain 1: Learning Outcomes Pupils enjoy their learning, are motivated to learn and expect to achieve as learners	Pupils use appropriate digital technologies to foster their active, creative and critical engagement in attaining challenging learning outcomes. Pupils use digital technologies to collect evidence, record progress, evaluate and reflect, and to create new solutions and/or products.

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

- Pupils and teachers in our school are proficient in using digital technology
- Staff members are interested in CPD relating to embedding digital technologies across the curriculum
- We have 47 iPads which are used on very regular basis to support learning
- All classrooms are equipped with IFS boards and laptops
- Online enrolment available on our website
- Online Irish and Spelling programmes
- Wide range of Assistive Technology available for pupils
- Plean Scoile for Word Processing skills development
- Shared bank of teacher resources available on Google Drive
- Social Media school accounts for Instagram and Facebook
- Modern, up-to-date website
- School Newspaper to encourage student voice published online
- Termly School Newsletter published online
- Pupils regularly use iPads/computers to research projects
- Attending online webinars across a number of curricular areas for example science, maths, water safety etc
- Fully equipped computer room with 23 PCs, speakers, keyboards, word processing software and internet access
- Bluetooth speaker for use in the school halla or on yard/PE

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

- Coding throughout the classes including Bee-Bots, Scratch, Spike Lego
- As part of the Primary Maths Curriculum and to promote STEM, embed digital technologies as part of Playful Maths
- Introduce a printer for pupil use/publishing in our Computer Room

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: Learner Outcomes
STANDARD(S): ● Pupils enjoy their learning, are motivated to learn and expect to achieve as learners ● Pupils achieve the stated learning objectives for the term and year
STATEMENT(S): ● Pupils use appropriate digital technologies to foster active engagement in attaining appropriate learning outcomes

- Pupils are provided with personal feedback and differentiated support based on evidence gathered using a range of methods including digital technologies

TARGETS:

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?)
1. Continue to develop coding throughout classes using the spiral approach, eg. Bee-Bots, Scratch Jr and Scratch Coding online	Ongoing Teacher training for Scratch/Coding etc to be organised September 2026	Teaching Staff	Children in all classes will, to the best of their ability, be confident in using Coding skills	Computer room IPads Interactive whiteboards Online tools Online websites
2. Spike Lego to be introduced to the Senior Classes - Creative Hut and Wriggle, Learn It (Cork based)	Teacher training to be arranged Sept 2026	Teaching Staff	That STEM and the use of digital technologies are promoted in our school as part of Playful Maths	Aladdin and St. Mary's school Social Media platforms
2. As part of the Primary Maths Curriculum and to promote STEM, embed digital technologies as part of Playful Maths	Ongoing		That children will have a purpose for learning how to create written work using Microsoft Word skills and be able to print their efforts.	
3. Introduce a printer for pupil use/publishing in our Computer Room		Cathriona Greally liaising with Tom. He is due to come in February		
4. Internet Safety -All classes will learn about safer internet usage on days such as Safer Internet Day and incidentally in class -helpful links are shared with parents on an ongoing basis	All classes learn about internet safety on an ongoing basis: Safer Internet Day every year - Helpful links shared with parents e.g. from Scoilnet, HSE, Webwise, Accenture (ie Same Rules	Cathriona Greally will advise class teachers when and where to access resources for their classes and resources that would be helpful to their parents and will provide links to these resources on Aladdin. Noelle Lane will share same resources with all parents in the school on Aladdin	That children and their parents will become aware of and develop and understanding of how to use the internet safely and appropriately and how to keep safe when using the internet	

5. Online Resources - Useful websites are displayed in the Computer Room for teachers to see. -A selection of useful Apps are downloaded onto the school iPads	Apply) visa Aladdin and via our school Social Media platforms Ongoing	Cathriona Greally creates displays of useful websites in PC Room and arranges with Tom our IT expert to buy ipads when necessary and to add suitable agreed Apps on iPads	That teachers are aware of useful resources available and children have access to these when using iPads and when in Computer Room	
EVALUATION PROCEDURES: (How are we progressing? Do we need to make adjustments? Have we achieved our targets?)				
Feedback at staff meetings/Croke Park, Cuntais Miosula, evidence of pupils learning and teaching completed using digital technologies				



Parent/Guardian Survey: Use of Digital Technology in Our School

Purpose:

As part of our *Digital Learning Plan* and the *Digital Learning Framework for Primary Schools*, we will gather parents' views on how digital technology is used to support teaching, learning, and communication in our school. Your feedback will help us plan future improvements. All responses are anonymous.

Section 1: About You

What class level is your child currently in?

☐ Junior Infants
 ☐ Senior Infants
 ☐ 1st–2nd
 ☐ 3rd–4th
 ☐ 5th–6th

How often does your child use digital technology for learning at home?

☐ Daily ☐ A few times a week ☐ Occasionally ☐ Rarely ☐ Never

Section 2: Awareness and Attitudes

I am aware that digital technology is used regularly to support teaching and learning in this school.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Unsure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

I believe digital technology enhances my child's learning.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Unsure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

I feel confident that the school uses digital technology safely and appropriately.

☐ Strongly agree ☐ Agree ☐ Unsure ☐ Disagree ☐ Strongly disagree

How important do you think digital skills are for your child's future?

☐ Very important ☐ Important ☐ Somewhat important ☐ Not important

Section 3: Home–School Communication

Which of the following digital tools do you use to receive information from the school? *(Tick all that apply)*

☐ Aladdin ☐ Email ☐ Facebook ☐ Instagram ☐ School website ☐ Other (please specify):

How effective do you find these communication tools for keeping you informed about school activities and your child's learning?

☐ Very effective ☐ Effective ☐ Unsure ☐ Ineffective

Which platform do you find **most useful** for receiving school updates?

☐ Aladdin ☐ Email ☐ Facebook ☐ Instagram ☐ School website

Do you feel confident using these digital tools?

☐ Yes ☐ Somewhat ☐ No

Section 4: Impact on Learning and Wellbeing

How do you feel digital technology affects your child's learning and development?

- **Engagement in learning:** ☐ Positive ☐ Neutral ☐ Negative

- **Creativity:** ☐ Positive ☐ Neutral ☐ Negative
- **Wellbeing and screen time:** ☐ Positive ☐ Neutral ☐ Negative

What types of digital activities does your child talk about from school?

☐ Educational games ☐ Coding ☐ Online research ☐ Presentations ☐

Seesaw/Projects ☐ Other: _____

Section 5: Open Feedback

13. What do you think the school does **well** in its use of digital technology?

14. What improvements would you like to see in how the school uses digital technology?

15. Any other comments or suggestions: