Scoil Bhreandáin Naofa
St. Brendan's National School

ICT Policy

Mission Statement

As well as being an important educational resource, the ability to use ICT effectively is a vital life skill in modern society. Our aim is to produce learners (pupils and staff) who are confident and effective users of ICT. We strive to achieve this aim by:

• Helping all staff and pupils to explore the learning resources provided by ICT

• Helping all children to use ICT with purpose and enjoyment

• Helping all children to develop the necessary skills to exploit ICT

• Helping children to become autonomous users of ICT

• Using ICT to develop partnerships beyond the school

NOTE: ICT is not seen as another school subject but rather as a tool to enhance teaching and learning.

Why does our school require ICT?

1. To provide the best possible education for all our pupils.
2. To provide a powerful and up to date teaching resource for all our teachers.
3. To allow for more effective administration.
4. To help provide more effective communication with staff and parents.
5. To communicate with teachers and pupils in Europe and further afield.
6. To prepare children for life in a technologically advanced world.

To what use will ICT be put?

1. School Administration
2. School Attendance Tracking
3. Research software e.g. Encarta Encyclopaedia
4. Adventure games that stimulate higher order thinking skills and problem solving
5. Word Processing of children's work
6. Research on the internet
7. Communication via email
8. Special Needs pupils.
9. Learning Support
10. Displaying the work of pupils through school blogs , web page , etc.
11. Facilitating group work/projects, collaborating on Google Drive.

Current Infrastructure

- In keeping with our mission, we perceive computers being used as a tool of teaching and learning in each classroom. Therefore, we have supplied each classroom with a laptop, interactive whiteboard and projector.
- All computers are networked, have access to high speed broadband and connect to a central photocopier/colour printer.
- The networked printer also has a scanning facility.
- All teacher laptops have Office 2010 installed. The school has purchased a full licence.
- The secretary's office is also equipped with a PC.
- The learning support room has a PC for pupil use.
- The senior classroom has two refurbished PC's, two laptops and a tablet for pupil use.
- All classrooms have a digital camera.
- The senior classroom has a digital sound recorder.
- Current Software Provision
  - The school has acquired a comprehensive library of computer software. Software is stored in the class library (educational games or reference CDs) or in the learning support room (Wordshark, Lexia etc).
  - Computer installation software is stored in the secretary's office.
- Each year before return to school in September, Kevin Keane of Wizard Computers updates all software on all computers.
- The extra ICT hardware in the senior classroom:
  - Facilitates opportunities for group discussion and research
  - Give pupils first-hand experience in using technology.
  - Allows pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds access technology and the many resources on the internet.
  - Is used for writing, editing and publishing the Eyrecourt Examiner student newspaper

ICT Co-ordination

• The principal, Éilis Treacy, co-ordinates ICT.

• Any IT faults which cannot be rectified by the hardware user are to be reported to the secretary who will contact Kevin Keane (Wizard Computers).

• Anti-virus Protection is installed on all computers with access to broadband.

Special Needs

- A PC is provided in the learning support room as we recognise the potential of ICT to enhance the learning opportunities for pupils with special educational needs. Children with specific writing, reading and numeracy needs are using ICT to provide alternative and complementary educational experiences.

- Laptops and specialised keyboards are also provided where appropriate and sanctioned by the Department of Education and Skills.

Exceptional Students
- ICT is used in all classrooms to challenge and extend the educational opportunities for pupils with above average attainment.
- In particular, pupils in the senior classroom use Khan Academy, Scratch and Logo to challenge and extend their educational opportunities.

School Website
- The school hosts a website at www.eyrecourtns.ie
- School newsletters are regularly added to the website. From September 2015 parents must access the monthly school newsletter through www.eyrecourtns.ie as it is no longer sent home in hard copy.
- School policies that are relevant to parents are available to view on www.eyrecourtns.ie.
- School photos and news items are regularly added to the site. It is school policy NOT to name pupils in photographs on the web site.
- The school also has a Green School blog www.eyrecourtnsgreenschool.weebly.com and classes are invited to contribute to the blog along with the Green School Committee.
- The senior classroom has a blog for its newspaper The Eyrecourt Examiner www.eyrecourtexaminer.weebly.com , it also has a twitter account @Eyrecourt_News