e-Learning Policy

What is e-Learning?

This is learning that is made possible and supported through the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in school and at home. Whatever the technology being used by the individual learning, it is at the core of the educational journey. Undoubtedly, e-Learning involves engaging in a wide range of learning activities, both inside and outside school, including the use of ICT to support life-long-learning for families. Schools involved in e-Learning use a mixture of familiar learning techniques and traditional methodologies combined with e-learning that is delivered entirely online.

What is a VLE?

A VLE is a platform that provides web-based access to tools and resources to support and enhance educational delivery and management. It facilitates online learning, communication and collaboration between teachers and students. We are using the computer-based learning environment called MY-SCHOOL run by C2K.

MY-SCHOOL

MY-SCHOOL is the browser-based user interface to the C2k Education Network service in Northern Ireland. MY-SCHOOL offers two interfaces:

- a Standard interface for staff and students at Key Stage 3 and above
- a Primary interface for Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 students.

When users log in to MY-SCHOOL, they are automatically presented with the appropriate interface and given access to the applications provided as part of the MY-SCHOOL service. MY-SCHOOL is cloud-based. A cloud-based computer system makes its data and software applications accessible to any device connected to the internet. MY-SCHOOL offers a range of facilities, including:

• communication tools (email, bulletin boards and chat rooms)
• collaboration tools (online forums, intranets, electronic diaries and calendars)
• tools to create online content and courses
• online assessment and marking
• controlled access to curriculum resources; e.g. Newsdesk, online educational videos and an area to store files

Within MY-SCHOOL

Widget

Widgets are convenient tools that are displayed on the MY-SCHOOL tabs. They have many functions, for example showing a clock, launching email and/or summarising website updates. Users with the appropriate permissions are able to create widgets and make them available to particular user groups.

Learning Exchange

This is an online repository of training and help materials to help users of the MY-SCHOOL system.

C2K NewsDesk

This is an online news service for our pupils which provides a real-life context for curriculum topics, and helps to improve pupils' literacy by encouraging a daily reading habit. Learnnewsdesk also invites pupils to express their opinions and submit their own stories and comments, which can then be published online.

Equella

Equella is a fully searchable content repository that houses learning and teaching materials.

e-Learning in our school:

The school has a managed computer service supported by C2K which provides us with 2 high quality laptop computers in every classroom and thirty networked PC's in the computer suite. We have iMex Touch Panels and Apple TVs in every classroom and one to one iPad device deployment in each classroom. We have a wireless network that provides coverage to every part of the school that allows pupils to access their individual documents, the internet and a local printer to support their e-Learning skills development.

e-Learning at Home:

If you have an internet connection at home, your child will be able to access MY-SCHOOL and thus interact in a safe and controlled way.

e-Learning links with other schools:

It is hoped that through MY-SCHOOL online discussions with other Northern Ireland schools will begin to develop and then links to schools further afield.