

## Digital Learning Policy

### Gowerton Comprehensive School

#### Introduction

***“Learners have the right to a good quality education.”***

At Gowerton School we try to ensure our pupils are given every opportunity to develop their skills in preparation for the future. One of those skills that we feel is very important is digital competence. By giving the pupils digital skills and the ability to learn through digital means, prepares learners to participate in a rapidly changing world of work. All pupils are encouraged to evaluate their use of digital tools for their effectiveness on the task and their understanding.

#### Aims of digital learning

- Develop digital competence through the implementation of the Digital Competence Framework across the curriculum
- Use of ICT to facilitate learning in all subjects
- Use a range of software / websites / technology to complete a task depending on the audience
- Understanding how to use technology safely to be a good digital citizen
- Develop problem solving and logical thinking skills

#### Role of the DCF Co-ordinator

- Identify staff needs or concerns around technology or the element of the DCF
- To provide training opportunities for staff/support staff to develop these needs and their own professional development
- To Map the coverage of ICT/DCF skills across the school subjects in all year groups and identify gaps that need addressing
- Working with the cluster schools to collaborate on digital skills and learning.
- Provide support for all teachers and support staff in planning or developing lessons and schemes of work

### **Teachers Role in digital learning**

- To implement the Digital Competence Framework within their Schemes of work and lesson plans across all year groups
- Monitor progression of the digital skill in the pupils they are teaching
- To make use of all technology at their disposal to facilitate learning
- Develop or maintain their digital skills for professional development
- To use technology to facilitate learning NOT to hinder it

### **Differentiation – Additional Learning Needs and More Able and Talented**

At Gowerton we know that every pupil is unique. Staff are encouraged to differentiate their lessons to suit the needs of the learner. This also applies to digital learning. The benefit to using technology to facilitate learning is that lessons can be easily adapted to meet the needs of pupils. Scaffolding and challenges can be implemented through the features or tools of the software or application that is being used.

*For example. The task could be to write a formal letter. For the less abled learner, a template can be provided for them in advance with small challenges to develop their skills. For the more able learner, they could use a mail merge system when the letter is complete to send to multiple recipients.*

Pupils with Additional Learning Needs can sometimes require additional hardware or software to facilitate their learning in school. The use of technology to assist their learning can be essential.

- We offer pupils the use of Chromebooks in lessons where they may have difficulties accessing the current work
- There are coloured acetates available for pupils with sight difficulties or dyslexia to place on their computer screens
- An enlarged keyboard is available that is colour coded for ease of use.

### **Assessment of digital skills**

Part of the marking policy for the school requires teachers to be assessing digital skills as well as literacy, numeracy and subject based knowledge. This informs the learner of the digital skill they have used and its effectiveness. It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that all digital skills used are progressing.

### **Equal opportunities and Rights of the child**

All learners regardless of race, gender or ability will have the opportunity to develop their digital skills. All learners will have:

- Equal access to digital resources or technology
- Equal opportunities to develop their digital skills
- The right to be protected from harm – including online

### **Hardware and Software resources**

Every year the school ensure that the current resources are all maintained and replaced where necessary. Acquisition of appropriate resources is planned in line with the schools budget and infrastructure.

Current hardware available around the school include:

- 4 ICT suites that contain 30 computers in each
- Additional ICT rooms that are available for all subjects to utilise
- Chromebooks in each departmental area
- Numerous iPads
- Surface computers in Art / Photography
- 2 Lego Mindstorms Robots
- A class set of Microbits
- VR headsets
- Interactive Whiteboards in various classrooms
- Teaching staff have access to a desktop computer in each classroom

The plan moving forward is to continue to evaluate the needs of the school in regards to digital hardware and software and incorporate it as necessary into the school plan.

**Monitoring and reviewing**

Monitoring is carried out by the DCF Co-ordinator and the Headteacher in the following ways:

- INSET sessions to review progress or development
- Formal lesson observations
- Informal class visits
- Work Scrutiny sessions each term - by looking at a selection of pupil's digital work.
- DCF Mapping exercise completed and updated each year

Policy approved by Headteacher                      Date:              Jul 2019

Policy approved by Governors                      Date:              Jul 2019

**Policy reviewed**

**DCF Coordinator** Miss R Roberts      **Date** Jul 2019      **Updated?** Yes / No