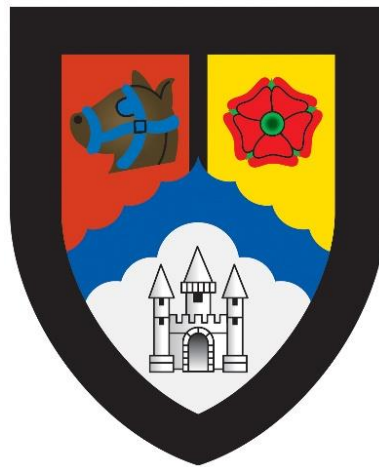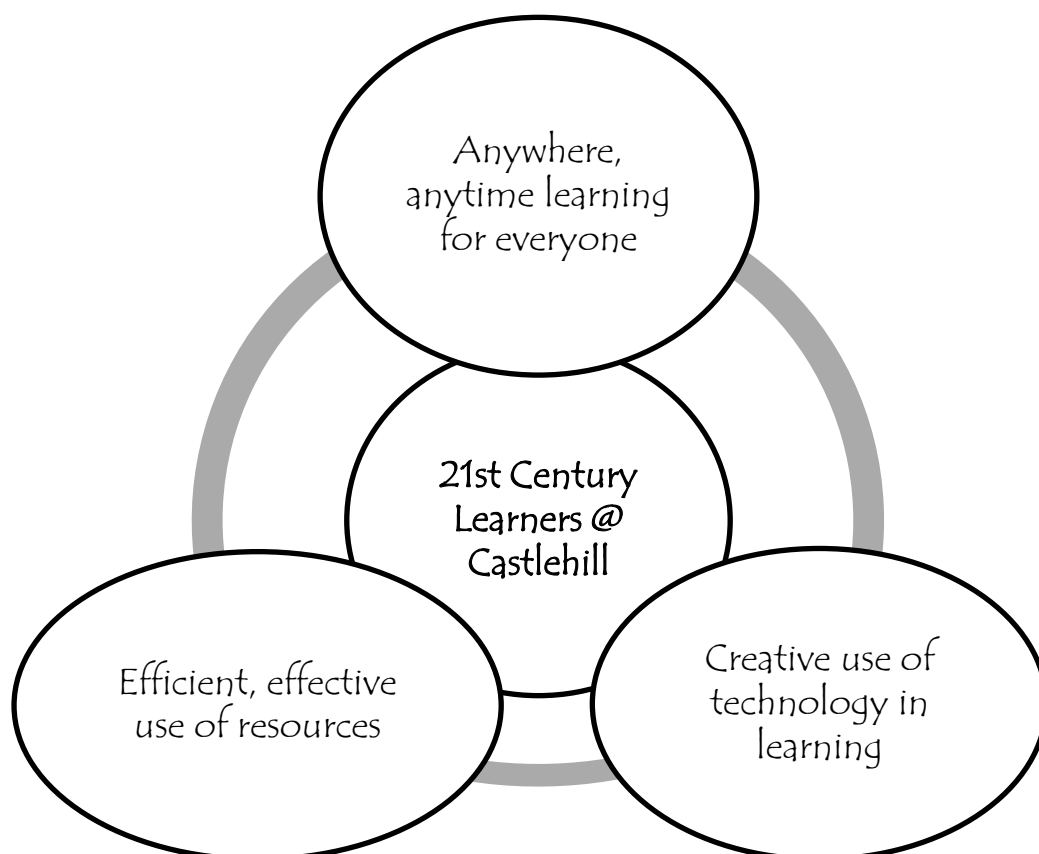# Castlehill Primary School and ELR

Digital Learning Policy

UNCRC: You have the right to learn and go to school. Article 28
Everyone who works with children should always do what is best for each Child. Article 3

School Vision: Everyone is included: working together and learning all the time.

Introduction: In Castlehill Primary we aim to raise children's attainment and achievement by providing a rich learning environment taking into account all our children's social backgrounds and learning needs. Teachers take account of pupils' learning needs and adopt varied teaching styles to challenge pupils. Our overarching aim is to provide our pupils with transferable skills and knowledge for life, learning and work. At Castlehill digital learning is used across our curriculum, to raise attainment through:

Anywhere, anytime learning for everyone

21st Century Learners @ Castlehill

Efficient, effective use of resources

Creative use of technology in learning

Background:

We are a non-denominational school within Bearsden in East Dunbartonshire about 6 miles from Glasgow city centre. Our parents value education and have a very active approach to their children's development. We have high levels of attainment across the school. Our Free Meal Entitlement figure is between 10 and 20% and 60-70% of our pupils live within quintile 5 on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). This data illustrates the social circumstances of our school and the wealth of opportunities that our children experience.
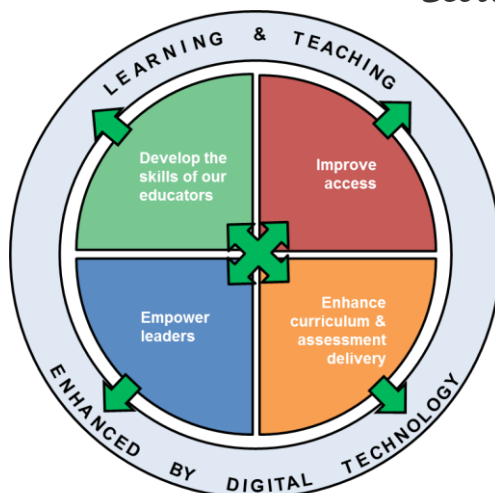
We are mindful that there are a small number of pupils who may not have access to technology or the internet at home and are therefore unable to benefit from this access. Pupils may also have additional support needs which may influence how they interact with technology.   Individuals teachers take account of this and provide opportunities within the school day, devices are carefully managed to ensure that they are best used to meet children's needs.

Rationale:

By increasing pupil and staff engagement with digital technology we acknowledge its distinctive contribution to learning and teaching. For this reason, Digital Learning is integrated into the School Improvement Plan (SIP). Underpinning this is Scotland's Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy to:

- Develop the skills and confidence of educators in the appropriate and effective use of digital technology to support learning and teaching.
- Improve access to digital technology for all learners.
- Ensure that digital technology is a central consideration in all areas of curriculum and assessment delivery.
- Empower leaders of change to drive innovation and investment in digital technology for learning and teaching.

Enhancing learning and teaching through the use of digital technology
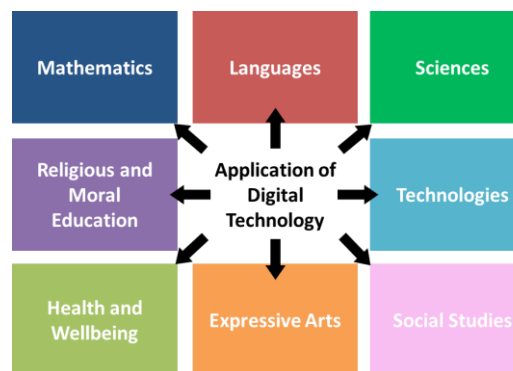*Scottish Government, 2016*

Our Digital Learners will:

✓ Identify and use a range of digital strategies to support their learning
✓ Develop the skills and abilities to experiment and create innovative digital solutions
✓ Be able to understand and demonstrate the benefits of digital technology in their learning
✓ Adhere to acceptable use protocols, applying their skills and knowledge to use the internet safely and responsibly
✓ Participate in learning that will develop skills and provide opportunities to work collaboratively using digital technology
✓ Have opportunities, and the means, to use digital technology, to access online content
✓ Display a positive mindset towards technology with the confidence and competence to embrace digital technology and the internet
✓ Acquire the skills, ability and agility to select and use appropriate digital technology for learning, life and work
✓ Be treated equitably; all learners with Additional Support Needs (ASN) will benefit from digital technologies and will be guided on the use of assistive and other technologies for their ongoing support.

Our Digital Staff will:

✓ Have the skills and abilities to experiment and create digital technology solutions
✓ Understand and demonstrate the benefits of digital learning for themselves and their learners
✓ Participate in digital technology professional learning opportunities in a range of formal and informal contexts including whole-school teaching, peer-to-peer learning, the use of external organisations and formal training

✓ Have opportunities to observe modelled lessons and have specialist visitors who can demonstrate the value of digital learning and allow teachers to share examples of good practice
✓ Have the opportunities and means to use digital technology and access online content, during and when planning learning and teaching
✓ Develop their skills, ability and agility to use digital technology in their teaching
✓ Identify digital technology professional learning opportunities from the SIP in their annual Professional Review and Development (PRD) as appropriate
✓ Have confidence in their own skills and knowledge to use the internet and digital devices safely and responsibly
✓ Be equipped to deliver key safety messages regarding digital technology to pupils
✓ Participate in collaborative teaching and learning opportunities using digital technology
✓ Embrace digital technology and the internet and become more confident in its application

✓ Ensure they are confident and competent at supporting children with additional support needs using digital technologies.

Strengths:

As a forward-thinking school we believe ICT is an integral part of learning and value the importance of providing lots of varied opportunities for children to learn across the curriculum accessing a wealth of quality, current and relevant resources. There is a clear commitment to digital technology in Castlehill Primary: it is a feature in all classes and is used across the curriculum. We understand the importance of ICT in the wider world and therefore we promote the progressive development of digital skills from starting school to leaving. This ensures that each child will have the expertise and confidence to engage in all opportunities offered to them in the world of work.

A skills-based Digital Learning programme, with clear links to CfE Es & Os and Benchmarks, is used successfully throughout the school to develop digital literacy skills at all stages. Ipads are used routinely by children for a variety of purposes. All children in Castlehill Primary are benefiting from the added value of digital technology.

Resources:

Materials and resources are organised to enable all staff and pupils to access these regularly throughout the session. Through central school funds, Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) and fund-raising we have invested in a wide variety of ICT resources for everyday and targetted use. Resources are timetabled according to age, stage and need and are well-used on a daily basis.

We have:
- 9 class iPads – one for every class in school. Teachers download apps suitable for their class.
- 25 iPads for use across the school – one slot timetabled per class and the rest bookable
- 5 iPads reserved for Bug Club reading scheme
- ICT suite with 10 laptops and 12 PCs. Overhead projector available.
- All classrooms have at least 1 PC (infant/ELR classes have two PCs)
- All classrooms have a new Promethean ActivPanel
- Every class has access to class iPad which is used as digital camera.
- Beebots, Code-a-pillars and BBC Micro:bits are available.

Professional Learning:

As a whole school we have reviewed our approach to ensure Digital Learning being developed consistently and progressively. All teaching and support staff attended training to develop their own skills in use of the iPads and ActivPanels as an integral tool for learning and teaching. As Digital literacy is part of the School Improvement Plan, time will continue to be allocated to staff training as part of the Working Time Agreement or CPD activities. Audits of the developmental needs of the staff regarding digital teaching and learning skills are evaluated regularly.

All staff are subject to East Dunbartonshire ICT Acceptable Use policy and ensure they meet the requirements.

As part of our local cluster working, schools identified and targeted training to build teacher confidence when using Glow. Good practice and resources are shared across the cluster and a formal cluster calendar is in place each year.

Links

Close links with our associated secondary school also enriches our P6 & P7's ICT experiences. We work closely with Bearsden Academy's Digital Leaders, bringing them in to teach skills to upper school classes..

The school has a Digital Leader of Learning who will provide support within the school and work at a cluster level to develop a coherent and consistent approach to enhance Digital Learning.

We have established links with NSPCC and Community Police to provide parents & pupils with guidance on internet safety while class lessons are delivered to help pupils to stay safe online.

Electronic links with parents through our email and text system negates the need for paper copies of newsletters and other information as well as highlighting the digital learning within school. We routinely use Twitter to communicate with parents and the wider community.

Website:

Castlehill has its own website which is regularly updated and details all aspects of school life. It shows learning and activities both within and outwith the classroom, alongside information and guides for parents which support Digital Learning at home.

Summary:

Our ICT skills programme has recently been updated. This ensures progression and enables teachers to use their own creativity, knowledge and expertise in designing motivating, enjoyable and challenging digital learning experiences.

Next Steps:

- Evaluate the revised programme of study.
- Continue to focus on Digital Learning as part of the SIP.
- Continue to focus on Digital Learning as part of cluster working.
- Attend ICT Forums (EDC) to keep informed of changes to practice.
- Continue to evaluate and update Digital Learning resources.
- Continue to update Digital Learning planners in light of new resources and approaches.
- Monitor our approaches to ensure equitable access to technology.