Knockminna N.S.

Ballymote

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Our Annual Digital Learning Plan

School Year:2026/27

This document records the outcomes of our current digital learning plan, including targets and the actions we will implement to improve teaching, learning and assessment practices using digital tools. This plan was informed by the Department of Education's 'Digital Strategy for Schools to 2027' and the Digital Learning Framework.

1.1 School Details:

Knockminna N.S. is a vertical, co-educational national school. There are currently 65 pupils on roll. There are 4 teachers, one of whom works in a special education context. The school derives its population from the surrounding area and a small cohort of pupils from the nearby town of Ballymote. The school has an active Parents' Association who fundraise regularly for school resources. Currently we have 32 ipads in the school. Each teacher has their own laptop which is connected to the internet. In two classrooms we have 2 interactive televisions and we have flat-screen televisions in the other two classrooms.

1.2 School Digital Learning Vision:

In our school we believe 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. The management will promote a culture of collective, collaborative and reflective practice among staff when using digital technologies. We recognise the positive impact that digital technologies can have on the learning of pupils with special and additional needs and aim to harness this in our school moving forward. The use of C-pens to aid children who have difficulties accessing large volume of text will be facilitated in the senior and middle classes. Going forward digital technologies will play an increasing role in assessment in our school through the development of digital portfolios. Consultation will take place with the various stakeholders, parents, pupils, staff and the Board of Management when finalising this plan.

1.3 Brief account of our strengths with regard to digital technologies for teaching, learning and assessment in our school:

- Our teachers are confident in using a variety of digital tools such as Seesaw, Google Classroom, Book Creator, and the G Suite for Education. We have a collaborative culture supported by peer mentoring and regular CPD opportunities.

1.4 Brief account of the school's digital technologies infrastructure:

- We have good high speed broadband in the school.
- All class teachers have an interactive television or a flat screen television and a laptop with internet access in their classrooms.
- Our SEN teacher has a laptop with internet access. She also has access to the school iPads as required.

- All staff members have been allocated a google workspace email address under the school domain e.g. staff@knockminnans.ie
- The school also has a website using this domain knockminnans.ie
- All pupils have been allocated a school email address but the facility for email has been disabled
- We have a set of 32 iPads and 2 portable charging cases. The school uses a centrally managed digital platform resource Jamf Mobile Device Management system to manage and update the ipads and relevant applications.
- We have invested in 4 x C-pens to aid children with dyslexia access larger volumes of text.
- We have a networked colour photocopier which all teachers have access to print from.
- We use the functions of the Aladdin Connect system – to record daily attendance, for recording assessment results, school reports, to collect permission slips and the use of the noticeboard and Aladdin app to streamline communication between parents and teachers.

2. The focus of this Digital Learning Plan

We undertook a digital learning evaluation in our school during the period May *2026* to *June 2026*. We evaluated our progress using the following sources of evidence:

- Parent Input – carried out informally. Main outcomes as follows
  - Parents think including digital technology in curricular areas is important however traditional methods should not be abandoned
  - Parents are concerned about safety surrounding digital technologies and would like more information for themselves and their children on this
  - The majority of parents would like to see the school embrace the let's delay movement which would see an agreement among the parent body to delay getting their child a smart phone and access to social media until the completion of primary school.
- Teacher Survey – carried out at a staff meeting. Main outcomes as follows
  - Teachers keen to get colleagues to share/demonstrate how they use technology in their class
  - Teachers keen to hear about other teachers' summer courses and any relevant useful resources that would enhance the learners experience in the school
  - Some teachers felt they needed more professional development in this area
  - Teachers are aware that one of the key competencies in the New Primary Curriculum is Being a Digital learner and are keen to see how best to develop this competency among our pupils in our school setting.
- Student were surveyed Informally
  - Students highly motivated by use of technologies
  - Almost all of our students use devices 1-2 hours on weekdays
  - Over half of pupils use devices for more than 5 hours at weekend

• Wi-Fi accessibility testing on multiple devices.
• Securing of additional digital technologies and devices and upgrading and maintaining current devices
• Professional evaluation of current technology and future needs.
• School website revamped in 2025
• School Facebook and Instagram accounts set up in 2025
Teachers provide access to Canva for Education in 2025.

2.1 Our previous digital learning plan(s) led to the following developments:

- Implementation of G Suite for Education across the school
- Acquiring of the domain name for the school @knockminnans.ie
- Creating a full G-suite of Education for all staff and pupils under this domain and changing the school email to reflect this change.
- Creating a new modern website under the school domain
- Launching school Instagram and Facebook pages
- Upgrading from Aladdin to Aladdin Connect as a means of developing and streamlining communication channels with parents
- Setting up Way2Pay and Business Online as a means of organising online payments and having an online banking platform
- Whole staff training on the use of ipads in the classroom with targeted approaches to beginning to creating content rather than just the absorption of content by pupils
- Continued promotion of CPD among staff members in the area of Digital Technologies
- Partnering with Sligo Education Centre and availing of their stock of Bee-bots and Lego Spike and using them as effective teaching tools in the classrooms.
- All class teachers report that they are using digital technology daily in their methodologies.
- All teachers report that they would like to enable the pupils to have more contact time with digital technologies.
- Pupils and Teachers are quite enthusiastic about digital technology.
- Some staff members have competent skills in this area and are willing to help others through modelling and sharing expertise.
- Funding available for continued investment to upgrade our digital technologies capabilities.

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

- **Staff need to engage with CPD to facilitate a greater use of digital technologies by pupils.**
- **The school needs to continue to engage with third parties who will demonstrate to teachers how specific technologies can be used for teaching and learning. It is hoped that this will help staff to develop confidence in their own abilities.**
- **We need to set up peer support for staff members to increase competence and confidence in embedding digital technologies.**
- **We need to update our Acceptable Usage Policy.**
- **We need to communicate more effectively with parents about new initiatives through Aladdin Connect, our school website, social media and via an annual e newsletter.**
- **We need to be more proactive in educating the children and their parents about online safety.**

3. Digital Learning Action Plan

Dimension: Leadership & Management	**Domain:** LEADING SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT
Standard: 3.1 Communicate the guiding vision for the school and lead its realisation	
Statement(s) of Practice: The principal and other leaders in the school expect and encourage teachers to embed digital technologies in their learning, teaching and assessment practices, and facilitate the sharing of practice. The principal, with those leading the process, uses SSE very effectively to embed digital technologies in a way that is engaging and challenging and enables all pupils to become active and motivated learners. The principal and other leaders in the school lead the development of effective policies and practices to support innovation and creativity, and embed digital technologies in all aspects of learning, teaching, and assessment. They facilitate teachers on a whole-school basis to critically reflect and experiment with a range of digital technologies, continuously evaluate the effectiveness of their use, and revise their teaching strategies accordingly	
TARGET(S): *What do you plan to achieve in the next 9-12 months that will move you closer to your vision? Targets are generally based on learners acquiring new knowledge, skills and/or attitudes as well as the method of attainment. They should lead to improved learner outcomes.*	

They should be SMART - specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound.

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Actions break down the steps necessary to achieve the above target(s) over the next 9-12 months.

ACTION (What needs to be done?)	CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS (What are the desired outcomes?)	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE (Who is to do it?)	TIMEFRAME (When is it to be done by?)	ACTION COMPLETED?
• Update, agree and ratify our new Digital Learning Plan.	Plan will be ratified by BOM	• All Staff and BOM	September 2026	
• Develop the use of G-Suite of education for all staff and students throughout the school.	Increased proficiency among staff in use of the various tools available G-Suite for Education	Principal and Staff	On-Going	
• Identify relevant Digital technology courses for CPD and external supports in specific areas as identified by staff	Increased availing of CPD in this area	Principal and Staff	On-Going	
• Our school website needs to be regularly updated.	School website has current, up to date content	Principal and Staff	On-Going	
• The possibility of developing an e-newsletter needs to be investigated.	E-newsletter to be ready for June 2027	Digital Learning Post Holder	June 2027	
• Staff to be trained up on how to edit their class page on the website	Staff updating their own classroom blogs	Digital Learning Post Holder and Staff	Completed for existing staff but On-Going for new staff	
• Whole school information talk required regarding	Increased attendance by the parent body to such talks	Digital Learning Post Holder, Staff	Completed in May 2026 but on-going	

Internet Safety each year or every second year.		and Parents Association		
• G Suite for education to be fully utilised by all staff to streamline school management and organisation	Increased proficiency among staff in use of the various tools available G-Suite for Education	Principal and Staff	Further development and training to take place in 2026-27. The Principal is undertaking CPD in this area.	
• All teachers will use either Seesaw, Google Classroom or alternative Digital Technologies as a class assessment tool	Development of individual digital portfolios	All Teachers	School Year 2026/27	
• Application for Digital Schools Status by 2030	Application Submitted before 2030	IT Post Holder	To be completed by 2030	

MONITORING & EVALUATION PROCEDURES

How are we going to monitor our progress? Do we need to make adjustments? Have we achieved our target(s)? How do we know?

Dimension: Leadership & Management	**Domain:** MANAGING THE ORGANISATION
Standard: 2.2 Manage the school's human, physical and financial resources so as to create and maintain a learning organisation	

Statement(s) of Practice: The Board of Management, Principal and Digital Learning Post Holder will work collaboratively to plan for investing funding received through the Digital Strategy to continuously update and replace older infrastructure and devices ensuring pupils and teachers have access to up to date technologies and avoiding having to replace expensive resources all at once.

TARGET(S): *What do you plan to achieve in the next 9-12 months that will move you closer to your vision? Targets are generally based on learners acquiring new knowledge, skills and/or attitudes as well as the method of attainment. They should lead to improved learner outcomes. They should be SMART - specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound.*

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• Replace the existing Prowise Screen in the Middle Classroom with the most up to date technology	Screen will be replaced	• Principal	September 2026	
• Begin the task of drawing up a plan for the continuous updating and replacing older infrastructure in a timely organised manner and staying within the BOM's budgetary constraints.	Increased proficiency among staff in use of the various tools available G-Suite for Education	Principal and Digital Learning Post Holder and Staff	On-Going	

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Dimension: Teaching & Learning	**Domain:** LEARNER OUTCOMES
Standard: 2.3 Pupils reflect on their progress as learners and develop a sense of ownership of and responsibility for their learning	
Statement(s) of Practice: Pupils use digital technologies to collect evidence, record and reflect on their progress and develop their competence as self-directed learners.	
TARGET(S): *What do you plan to achieve in the next 9-12 months that will move you closer to your vision? Targets are generally based on learners acquiring new knowledge, skills and/or attitudes as well as the method of attainment. They should lead to improved learner outcomes. They should be SMART - specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound.* •	

Actions break down the steps necessary to achieve the above target(s) over the next 9-12 months.

ACTION (What needs to be done?)	**CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS** (What are the desired outcomes?)	**PERSONS RESPONSIBLE** (Who is to do it?)	**TIMEFRAME** (When is it to be done by?)	**ACTION COMPLETED?**
• Pupils will use age-appropriate digital technologies to support active, creative and critical engagement with the Primary School Curriculum. Digital technology will be used where it adds value to learning and helps pupils demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding in different ways.	Increased engagement and rising confidence levels among the pupils and staff in their competence in using digital technologies in the classroom	• Digital Learning Post Holder and Staff	On-going	

Pupils will be supported in developing the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to participate safely and responsibly in digital environments. This will include protecting personal information, managing their digital footprint, communicating respectfully and recognising potential online risks.	Consistent whole school approach to Internet Safety Week using Age Appropriate content in each classroom as per the internet safety school Action Plan attached.	Digital Learning Post Holder and Staff	On-Going	
Pupils will create digital content at least once every two months: · Infant Level: Animations with student narration to explore a specific theme · 1st/ 2nd Class: Simple local history & geography trails · 3rd/4th Class: Create narrated eBooks to showcase learning on a topic in SESE or another curricular area · 5th/6th Class: Create and present a digital presentation to showcase curricular learning e.g. google slides	Increased creation and sharing of digital content by pupils.	All Teachers	School Year 2026/27	

MONITORING & EVALUATION PROCEDURES

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Dimension: Teaching & Learning	**Domain:** TEACHERS' COLLECTIVE/ COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE
Standard: 4.1 Teachers value and engage in professional development and professional collaboration	
• **Statement(s) of Practice:** Teachers evaluate, demonstrate and reflect with peers on the use of digital technologies to innovate and improve educational practice.	
TARGET(S): *What do you plan to achieve in the next 9-12 months that will move you closer to your vision? Targets are generally based on learners acquiring new knowledge, skills and/or attitudes as well as the method of attainment. They should lead to improved learner outcomes. They should be SMART - specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time bound.* •	

Actions break down the steps necessary to achieve the above target(s) over the next 9-12 months.

ACTION (What needs to be done?)	**CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS** (What are the desired outcomes?)	**PERSONS RESPONSIBLE** (Who is to do it?)	**TIMEFRAME** (When is it to be done by?)	**ACTION COMPLETED?**
•Teachers will collaborate in identifying, evaluating and sharing effective approaches to digital teaching, learning and assessment. Peer mentoring, staff demonstrations, collaborative planning and relevant professional development will be used to build whole-school capacity.	Increased engagement and rising confidence levels among the staff in their competence in using digital technologies in the classroom	Digital Learning Post Holder and Staff	On-Going	

The staff will work collectively to develop consistent approaches to digital portfolios, online safety, digital assessment, data protection and the ethical use of digital technologies.	Development of individual digital portfolios Consistent whole school approach to Internet Safety Week using Age Appropriate content in each classroom as per the internet safety school Action Plan attached.	Digital Learning Post Holder and Staff	September 2026	
Teachers to get involved in peer training to increase their IT proficiency and confidence among colleagues	Increased engagement and rising confidence levels among the staff in their competence in using digital technologies in the classroom	Digital Learning Post Holder and Staff	On-Going	
School will engage with external supports to develop staff confidence in using more digital technologies in their teaching and learning.	Increased availing of CPD by staff either face to face or via online webinars	Digital Learning Post Holder and Staff	On-Going	
MONITORING & EVALUATION PROCEDURES How are we going to monitor our progress? Do we need to make adjustments? Have we achieved our target(s)? How do we know?				