



St Joseph's
Primary School
Lisburn
eLearning Policy

June 2011



What is e-Learning?

e-learning is the learning that is made possible and supported through the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in school and at home. In today's society each individual has a range of technologies to choose from to support their learning and that technology is at the core of the educational journey.

Undoubtedly, e-learning involves engaging in a wide range of learning activities, both inside and outside of school, including the use of ICT to support life-long learning for individuals and 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?

In St Joseph's Primary School, we will be developing a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) to support all our pupils and staff. We are using the computer based learning environment called Learning NI to broaden virtual teaching and learning experiences for our pupils. Learning NI is run by C2k. The advantage of online learning means that pupils and staff can access their account from any computer with internet access in the world.

What is in Learning NI (LNI)?

Learning NI is a valuable online tool which promotes pupil and staff engagement in e-learning. It encompasses some of the following features:

- communication tools including email, bulletin boards and chat rooms (only available to others who are enrolled in the same course)
- collaboration tools including online forums, electronic diaries and calendars
- tools to create and share online content and courses with others enrolled on the courses
- online assessment and marking
- Controlled access to curriculum resources e.g. Newsdesk, online educational videos and an area to store files.



eLearning in our school:

St Joseph's has a networked managed computer service supported by C2k which provides us with an ICT Suite and computer access in every classroom through PC's and a number of high quality laptop computers. We have Promethean Interactive Whiteboards in 13 out of 14 classrooms and our aim is to equip every classroom with an IWB. Our in school network allows children to access their individual documents, the internet and the local printer to support their e-learning skills development.

eLearning at Home:

If a child has an internet connection at home, they will be able to access LNI and thus interact with others enrolled in the same course in a safe and controlled way.

If a child does not have access to the internet at home, time will be provided in school for the child to explore LNI.

eLearning with other schools:

It is hoped that through LNI online discussions with other Northern Ireland schools, we will be able to extend our contacts and develop links to schools further a-field. Developing such links will enable our pupils to gain a great understanding of the PDMU and World Around Us areas of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Support for Parents:

At St Joseph's Primary School, we recognise that some parents will not be confident in the use of ICT. We endeavour to inform parents about e-learning activities through year group Curriculum Meetings and Learning Plans. We encourage our parents to engage with their children in collaborative learning and we also encourage our pupils to 'teach' their parents the skills they have been developing in school.