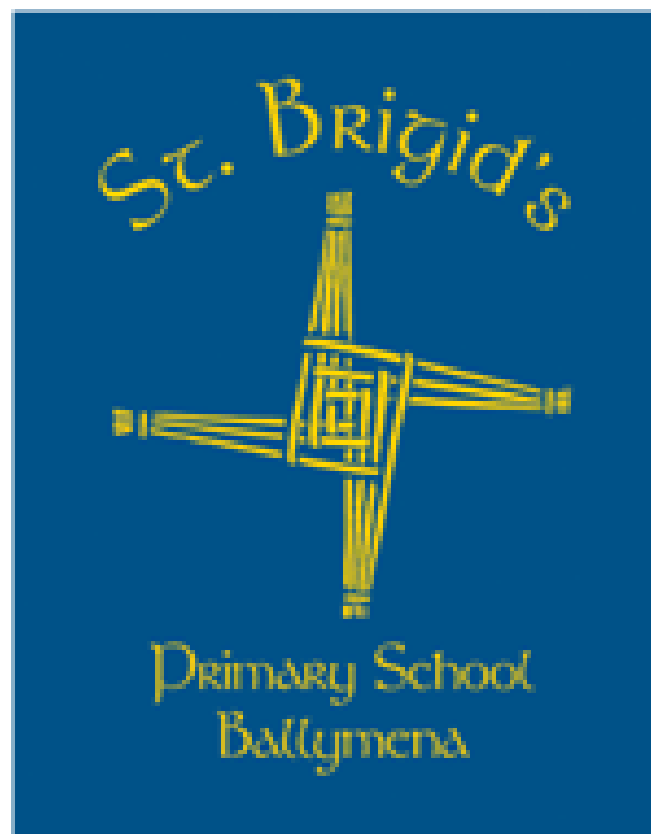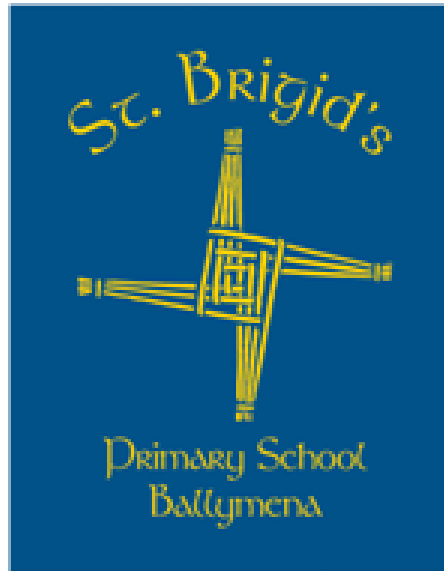# St. Brigid's Primary School
Information and Communication Technology Policy

"St Brigid's Primary School aims to develop each child to their fullest potential. High expectations and effective teaching and learning will enable all children to achieve and develop as life long learners, fully prepared for the ever changing world of today. As a Catholic school we will develop within the children values of respect, compassion for others and a genuine celebration of cultural diversity. We will strive to help each and every child grow into greater wholeness in Mind, Body and Spirit using St Brigid as our example. We realise that we are a central part of our community and strive to involve all parish partners in our work, especially our parents."

Through teaching ICT we equip children to participate in a rapidly-changing world where work and leisure activities are increasingly transformed by technology. We enable them to find, explore, analyse, exchange and present information. We also focus on developing the skills necessary for children to be able to use information in a discriminating and effective way. ICT skills are a major factor in enabling children to be confident, creative and independent learners.

What is ICT?

ICT comprises a variety of systems that handle electronically retrievable information. These include computers, programmable robots, tape recorders, CD players, calculators, digital cameras and video cameras.

ICT is concerned with the handling of electronic information and involves creating, collecting, holding, processing, presenting and communicating this information in a variety of ways for a variety of purposes.

Rationale

Why should our pupils use ICT?

ICT can enhance the learning process across all areas of the curriculum and
 enables pupils to undertake activities which would be difficult to pursue in any other way.

ICT takes the laborious routine out of some text and information tasks giving greater scope for pupils' creativity thereby motivating and enthusing pupils.

In the information society in which we live, pupils need to develop ICT skills in order to access relevant information.

ICT gives pupils immediate access to richer source materials.

ICT has the flexibility to meet the individual needs and abilities of each pupil catering for both weak and high achievers ICT has the ability to provide access to pupils with learning difficulties that would otherwise be difficult. The use of ICT supports learners of different types. Audio, Visual and Kinaesthetic.

ICT offers potential for effective group work and collaborative learning.

Aims

Our aims in using ICT are to:

- Extend and enhance learning across all areas of the curriculum.
- Encourage pupils to select and use ICT appropriate to the task.
- Develop practical skills in the use of ICT and the ability to apply these skills to the solving of relevant and worthwhile problems.
- Give children access to a variety of sources of information.
- Instil in children a sense of confidence, achievement and enjoyment.
- Allow children to access new technology and information in a safe and secure environment.

Strategies for use of ICT

ICT is not taught as a distinct subject, but is a tool to be used as appropriate throughout the curriculum it is therefore integrated into each area of study to support and enrich children's learning.
All children have equal access to the ICT resources in St Brigid's. Pupils have access to ICT through class-based and centrally based computers in a suite. Children also have access to digital imaging software and will use this under supervision in the computer suite

Progression

Pupils' ICT skills and competencies will be developed from Primary One to Primary Seven. Lines of progression are available in the appendix.
Progression in each of the strands of ICT has been identified and agreed by all staff.

Access
St. Brigid's Primary school has a computer suite available for the use of children as well as a mobile suite consisting of laptops which can be used in the classroom. Foundation classrooms have two computers available for use by children.

The school's ICT facilities are available for use by all pupils and staff. All children will be given access to ICT regardless of gender, race, physical or sensory disability.

For pupils with learning difficulties and/or physical or sensory disability appropriate use of ICT can often enhance access to aspects of the curriculum. In co-operation with the SENCO we will endeavour to provide, wherever and whenever possible, appropriate software and hardware to enable such access.

Internet

The school has internet access in every classroom. Any use of the Internet will be strictly in accordance with the school's Internet Policy, which has been communicated to staff, pupils, governors and parents.

Monitoring & Evaluating

Teachers maintain records for every child containing evidence of progress in each of the five strands of ICT. (express, exhibit, explore, exchange and evaluate.)Samples of children's work are maintained as evidence of progression.

CCEA Accreditation is used in Key Stage 2 to formally assess children's ICT skills across the various strands. They receive a CCEA accredited qualification in ICT at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2.
In addition to this, provision of ICT will be monitored through PRSD and the evaluation of ICT in teachers own planning.

Work completed by children will be displayed using audio visual equipment.

The Role of the Co-ordinator

The ICT Co-Coordinator and Core Team, in conjunction with the Principal has a responsibility for the progression of ICT. They have responsibility for the day to day maintenance of ICT equipment and, alongside the Principal, for the purchase of new resources.

The ICT Co-Coordinator and Core Team will support colleagues in their use of ICT. The assistant ICT co-coordinator will assist with curriculum support.

They will attend ICT courses and as far as possible be a resource of ICT knowledge for the whole school. The ICT Co-Coordinator will liaise with relevant bodies such as the North Eastern Education & Library Board.