St Francis' Nursery Unit
UITC Policy

Introduction
In St. Francis’ Nursery Unit we believe ICT should have a holistic, integrated and emergent approach within the Learning Environment with a strong emphasis on “Exploration.”
Within the Revised Curriculum for Primary school the 5 key elements are: -
Explore, Express, Exchange, Evaluate and Exhibit
Being a pre-school education and working in conjunction with our primary school, we believe in providing opportunities to use a wide range of ICT resources in preparation for the Primary Curriculum.

As the Pre-School Curriculum Guidance advises:
“Children should have opportunities to use a range of ICT resources (for example cameras, listening centres and computers), which will motivate them, enhance and extend their learning, and give them opportunities to engage in self-directed learning.”

The Nursery Curriculum

Areas of The Curriculum
Through the Nursery Curriculum the use of ICT provides the children with the opportunity to extend and learn throughout the 6 Areas of the Curriculum. ICT may contribute in the following ways: -

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- To wait, share, take turns and negotiate with others;
- To make choices
- To develop collaborative skills
- To gain positive dispositions towards learning
- To show curiosity
- To develop confidence and perseverance in the use of ICT
- To appreciate the challenge and sense of responsibility inherent in the appropriate use of a range of ICT resources;
- To take pleasure in achievements i.e. learning new skills
- To develop confidence and levels of self-esteem

Language Development

- To develop listening and memory skills.
- To express thoughts, feelings and ideas.
- To give and obtain information.
- To extend vocabulary related to themes and topics.
- To listen to and join in with stories, songs and rhymes.
- To become aware print has meaning.
- To develop questioning skills.

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Early Mathematical Experiences

To develop a deeper understanding of Mathematical Concepts: -

- Number.
- Shape.
- Size & Quantity.
- Pattern & Relationships.
- Measures – weight, length, capacity, area and time.
- Spatial Awareness.

Physical Development & Movement

- To improve fine and gross motor skills within a range of technological contexts.
- To develop hand/eye co-ordination.
- To develop precision and accuracy in terms of fine and gross motor control.
- To develop an awareness of space.

The Arts

To enjoy and appreciate various forms of media

- To create own images
- To listen to and appreciate music, songs and rhymes
- To express ideas
- To develop originality of thought
- To extend appreciation of shape, form, texture and colour.

The World Around Us

- To make use of all of the senses to investigate and explore
- To develop skills of observation
- To develop listening skills
- To appreciate the way in which ICT resources may be used in the environment
- To develop an understanding of rules associated with ICT resources, especially in relation to e-safety.
- To select appropriate ICT resources in specific purposes and in a range of situations.
- To ask questions about why things happen and how things work.

Areas of Play

ICT within the Curriculum

Children have opportunities to explore and investigate a range of ICT resources safely, naturally and at their own pace, recognising the uses of technology in their everyday lives and situations. They should be encouraged to observe and talk about the use of ICT in the Environment.

Use of Computers/I Pads

- Functioning computers can be integrated into play choices using a range of relevant & quality software
- Programmes, video clips and radio programmes provide the opportunity to gain information, to help draw on own experience's and to also imitate adult role behaviours,

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acting them out in their own play and learning to understand them better. Children can make use of their imagination as they continue the scenario which the media may have initiated.

We believe in St. Francis’ Nursery Unit in the importance of integration of ICT within the Areas of Play:

**Outdoors**
- Traffic Light system for play vehicles and other toys.
- Remote controlled vehicles, walkie talkie etc. may be used both indoors and outdoors, providing children with the opportunity to use technology in a real and meaningful context.

**Role Play**
- Electrical appliances in the Home Area such as clocks, radios, answering machine, telephone, washing machine, fridge, cameras. Dysfunctional remote controllers with old televisions and DVD players.
- The use of technological resources in a range of additional role play contexts such as:
  - Office- laptop, calculators and mobile phones.
  - Shop- bar code scanner and cash register.
  - Travel Agents- Computer
  - Space Station- Walkie talkie
Through these play children can imitate, make use of and stimulate the technology world.

**The Arts**
- Recyclable materials used to create elements of technology such as mobile phones, cameras, computers and scanners.
- Creativity may be further enhanced through the use of drawing and sketching computer software, musical software & those which promote the development of children’s imagination.

**Listening Centre**
- CD players & listening centre are valuable resources to assist in the enhancement of early language & literacy skills.

**Floor Play**
- Programmable and switch operated toys provide opportunities for the development in a range of curricular areas e.g. numeracy skills to develop counting, spatial awareness and problem solving skills.

**ICT in the Wider Environment**

When considering topics and themes, children have the opportunity to use the I-pads to enhance their own learning, deepening & consolidating observational skills. This is also the instance when using a computer mouse and a printer. Elements of investigating cause and effect can also be explored. Interest areas may be set up for children to investigate and find out about the workings of appropriate ICT resources.

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Children should be encouraged to be aware of ICT in their own environment, both indoors and out:

- Traffic Lights
- Public Telephones
- CCTV
- Bank links
- Scanners
- Weighing machines
- Photo Booths
- Petrol pumps
- Satellite dishes
- Automatic Doors
- Escalators
- Lifts

**ICT in the home & school:**

- Televisions
- DVD players
- CD players
- IPods
- Washing Machines
- Dish Washers
- Microwaves
- Lawnmowers
- Mobile Phones
- Photocopiers

**Home School Links**

- The use of the School website and the See Saw App are powerful tools for facilitating communication with parents/carers
- Home school links can be further promoted through the use of photographs with Bessie Bear to share home experiences.
- Parents are advised of software/resources suitable to support learning.
- CDs/Taped stories and rhymes may be provided by staff to share with parents & children
- The Plasma TV in our Welcome Area is a useful resource to convey information to parents.

**Adult Role**

- Adults should match their use of ICT to each child's individual needs.
- When using ICT, adult involvement is often required to gain the most from resources - to scaffold & support as in any other area of the Curriculum.
- Adults can also act as positive role models by modelling to children the value that they place on their own ICT on a regular and relevant basis.

**E-Safety and Child Protection**

- The school Internet access is filtered through the C2K managed service using a Websense filtering solution. The school has a second line for internet access to facilitate the use of iPads. This is managed by iTeach. All filters and appropriate security is overseen by the iTeach team who rigorously scan and examine the line for any inappropriate content. The school has been given a helpline number for any eventuality. The school has purchased an Applemac mini server for extra security in order for us to ensure optimum levels of e-safety protection for all.
• Within the Nursery there are restrictions on our IPad so that the children cannot access the internet.

Resources List
Some suitable Software for Children
• Early Years ICT Series
• www.smart-learning.co.uk
• The Garage & others
• www.earlyvision.co.uk
• Simple City & others
• www.2simple.com
• Teddy Bear Tools
• www.softease.com
• Nursery Rhymes
• www.inclusive.co.uk
• At the Toy Shop/Here’s Splodge/ Mini Musical Monsters/ Little Brown Bear-various/Rainbow Street/ Young Macdonald’s Farm/Tizzy’s ToyBox
• www.sherston.com
• Abrakadabra/Happy Duck
• www.inclusive.co.uk
• Leaps & Bounds- various
• www.semerc.co.uk

Some suitable Software for Adults
• www.under5s.co.uk
• www.bigeyedowl.co.uk
• www.dltk-kids.com
• www.beritsbest.com
• www.atschool.co.uk
• www.bbc.co.uk/children
• www.teachingideas.co.uk/earlyyears
• www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/pep/teach.htm
• www.preschooleducation.com
• www.enchantedlearning.com