



# ST MEWAN C P SCHOOL

*Policy Co-ordinator – Anna Willcock*

## ICT Policy for Parents

**Date: February 2020**

**Review Date: February 2021**

### Overview:

Technology has become an increasingly important part of our everyday lives and will continue to be so. The internet and other technologies are powerful tools, which provide new and exciting opportunities for everyone but also new challenges. At St. Mewan we believe it is our responsibility to teach pupils how to be safe and competent users of current and developing technologies. A secure understanding of ICT, from an early age, equips children with the skills and understanding to keep up to date with developing technologies. Using ICT promotes discussion, creativity, asking questions and links being formed between learning. These skills, and the core ICT skills themselves, are vitally important in education, employment and everyday life and are therefore hugely important to us as a school. We aim to ensure that all pupils achieve well in ICT and we promote the safe use of ICT at school and at home.

**Our vision for ICT is that, when leaving St.Mewan, all pupils would be capable and safe users of a range of technologies, aware of both the benefits and risks associated with it; eager and inspired to learn more.**

### Background & Equipment:

ICT is taught from entry into the school right through to Year 6. In the Early Years this is done more informally through structured play and through the use of ICT in other subject areas. From Year 1 - Year 6 all pupils take part in a timetable hour of ICT but will also use a variety of ICT equipment across all of their learning throughout the week. We believe a dedicated ICT lesson is necessary to teach children the skills they need to know, to use ICT safely and competently. However, we also believe it is hugely important that children apply these skills and the use of these technologies across all their learning, therefore ICT is used across all curriculum areas.



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We currently have 60 laptops in the Juniors, split into two sets of 30 with Year 3 & 4 primarily using one set and Year 5 & 6 the other, although there is always flexibility within this. We also have an ICT suite with 16 desktop computers and a further 15 laptops in the Infants. We have a bank of approximately older laptops that are used in the Early Years. We also have iPads available in two sets of 25. This gives the pupils a greater breadth of experience with different ICT technologies and makes our ICT learning even more portable! Further to this equipment we have video cameras, cameras, microphones, Beebots, Probots, microscopes, webcams, raspberry pi and equipment for data logging, animation, programming and control, and a wide range of ICT software for processing information, making music, making movies and more! We use all this equipment throughout the school. Every class is equipped with an interactive whiteboard, and ICT is used within all, or nearly all, lessons to enhance the pupils learning. Staff regularly receive training on current technologies.

### E Safety:

A huge part of our ICT curriculum focusses on ensuring that pupils know how to keep themselves safe in the digital world. The internet is increasingly available to children and children are increasingly capable of using this technology - sometimes more so than parents and carers. We accept this and therefore aim to teach children how to be safe in a range of situations online, that they might find themselves in. The eSafety curriculum is planned based on current advice coming from CEOP, who regulate children's safety online, and is taught across the ICT curriculum and beyond. Every year we take part in the International Internet Safety Day to promote this to children, parents and the community. All staff, pupils and governors are given up-to-date ICT training to equip them in protecting themselves online. The school has a range of eSafety resources accessible to parents on the eSafety section of our website. We provide publications such as the Vodafone 'Digital Parenting' Magazine to parents and offer training sessions and open evenings for them annually. We believe it is important for parents to understand the digital world their children are growing up in and to be able to support them in staying safe.



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### Communication with parents:

As you know, the website, emails and twitter are used to communicate information to parents. To make it easier for you to find information on the website, we have compiled the guide below.

**Home:** a general introduction to our school and site including urgent messages from the twitter feed.

**About us:** information for prospective parents. This includes school policies & procedures.

**Parents:** a page of information relevant to parents who currently have pupils at the school, such as term dates and recent news.

**Wraparound:** a page with details about our before school club, our after school club and holiday club provision)

**Pupils:** an area for pupils' learning to be shared. This includes class pages, club pages and useful websites that pupils might enjoy.

**Esafety:** a page of useful information about internet safety for pupils and for parents

**Newsletters:** a place to subscribe to and read our newsletters.

**Vacancies:** where current vacancies are listed should there be any.

Since March 2013 all newsletters have been sent electronically to improve the speed and efficiency of communications with parents. Urgent messages and club cancellations are emailed to parents via the website and displayed on the school homepage and twitter feed.

Cancellation of clubs should be posted to the website by 1 o'clock, except in extreme circumstances. In the unlikely event of an unforeseen cancellation/miscommunication about cancellation (where the staff/school are at fault), pupils will be offered after school at no charge until 4.20.

