Summary of Findings from Digital Learning Questionnaires 2018/19

Teachers

- 87.5% of the teachers were happy with the standard of digital technologies available in the school.
- 37.5% of teacher felt confident trying new technologies; 37.5% were somewhat confident; 25% were not confident.
- 37.5% of teachers share digital technologies knowledge or expertise with colleagues on a weekly or monthly basis.
- 62.5% of teachers use digital technologies to support learning on a daily basis. The remaining 37.5% do so on a weekly basis.
- 100% of teachers felt we were the same as or ahead of most school when it comes to digital learning.
- 100% of teachers felt that digital technologies engaged students and students found the activities to be fun and enjoyable.
- 87.5% of teachers felt 'not having enough time in the day" was the biggest barrier to using more digital technologies.
- 87.5% of teachers felt that "Discussions relating to social media" impacted on teaching and learning in classrooms either on a weekly or monthly basis.
- Suggestions: An iPad management system was named by most teachers as suggested area of improvement. Further CPD in the area of iPads & Apps was also suggested.

Parents (36 parents responded)

- 88.9% of parents feel that Scoil Barra Naofa is the same as or ahead of most schools when it comes to digital learning and technologies.
- 83% of parents felt the role of technology in educating pupils would be much more important in 10 years.
- 80.6% of children had access to a PC or tablet at home
- 100% of households have WIFI.
- 68.4% of parents stated their child had engaged with digital technologies outside of school by the age of 6.
- 53% of pupils have their own internet enabled device (laptop, phone, tablet etc.)*
- 58.3% believe that digital technologies have a great positive effect on learning; 36.1% believe it has a slight positive effect; 5.6% believe it has negative impact.
- Lack of funding & not enough devices were the greatest challenges reported by parents to increasing use of digital technologies.
- 47.2 % felt that social aspects of digital technologies (stemming from outside of school) impacted teaching and learning on a daily or weekly basis.
- 69.4% would support a whole school policy regarding use of technologies at home; 13.9% were unsure; 16.7% would not support such a policy.

It is important to note that there was a WIDE range of very STRONG opinions amongst the respondents of the questionnaire for parents, noted through the open ended questions. Some respondents were passionately pro-technology and digital learning and very much supported children becoming better equipped for the jobs of the future through digital technologies; Other respondents were passionately anti-technology, both at

home and in school. In relation to digital technologies some cited the addictive and futile nature of it, how it negatively impacted on social skills and damages a young person's developed. Finally, there were many respondents who recognised both the potential value and potential dangers of use of digital technologies in learning. Therefore, it is clear that there is not one consensus regarding digital technologies from the parent body sample who responded to the questionnaire.

There were technical issues in relation to two questions from the survey relating to ages children that own devices etc. Q 10 & 11 in particular. As the results from these questions would prove inaccurate, they have not been included in the above data.

Pupils

Focus Group: Student Council (10 pupils: 2nd-6th)

- Enjoyed digital activities such as Just Dance / Go Noodle & suggested this be extended.
- Enjoy websites such as Spelling City & Friv.
- Interactive digital learning through Bua na Cainte in younger classes was seen as a positive.
- Enjoy use of IT to do research for topics / projects & suggest more time be given to this.
- 30% of sample do not enjoy digital learning and would prefer not to do any more of it.
- The other 70% of the sample wanted more access to digital technologies in the computer room & with iPads
- Some pupils did not like certain apps such as ixl.com – stated it was like work!
- Suggested pupils themselves access and use the IWB.
- Majority of sample would not like digital homework.

Student Council conferred with classmates for additional feedback on use of digital technology in school. This feedback is summarised below:

Positives associated with digital technologies in school:

- Majority of pupils enjoyed using digital technologies in school for researching projects and games.
- Majority enjoyed the time spent engaged with digital technologies.

Negatives:

- Many pupils disliked the firewalls, as it felt it was too restrictive. Would like 'You Tube' to be 'unblocked'.
- Many pupils feel the range of apps on the iPads is too limited.
- Most pupils want more time and freedom when engaging in digital technology

Suggestions:

- More time.
- More and better apps.
- More games.
- More freedom on computers / iPads.
- Less firewalls.
- More iPads and Computers – Suggestion to invest in Apple Macs.