



NCCA

An Chomhairle Náisiúnta
Curriculum agus Measúnachta
National Council for
Curriculum and Assessment

Senior Cycle Level 2 Learning Programme: IT Skills

Elective Module

Draft for consultation



Introduction

The Senior Cycle Level 2 Learning Programme (SCL2LP) consists of a range of curriculum areas, each designed on a modular basis. There are four curriculum areas at the heart of the SCL2LP: Numeracy; Communication and Literacy; Personal Care; and Electives. IT Skills is an Elective Module.

IT Skills consists of one module. It is designed for a minimum of 60 hours of teaching time/class contact time over two years.

Module title	Recommended time in hours
IT Skills	60

Rationale

This elective module provides students with an opportunity to progress and integrate their IT skills across many areas of learning. Through practical activities and guided learning, students strengthen their ability to use technology effectively across various contexts. Digital citizenship¹ is fostered through developing the knowledge, skills, values and dispositions needed to engage responsibly, ethically, and safely in the digital world.

For the purpose of this module, IT skills refer to the abilities that help students use computers, tablets, and other digital devices confidently and safely. IT skills involves using devices, typing and inputting information (through keyboard, mouse, touch screen, speech etc); using software for tasks such as presenting and word processing; exploring and understanding internet safety; using technology to communicate and manage files; and using assistive technology.

As students engage more deeply with IT Skills, they can apply these skills across many modules and curriculum areas. This helps students develop a positive sense of self as the learning in this module is transferred and applied across multiple areas of learning.

This module provides students with opportunities to increase their capacity to manage their learning. The experience of creating and self-directing their own work can be transformative for students as they learn new ways to plan and organise, produce, finalise and present their work more effectively, both individually and in groups, and gain valuable experience that contributes to their holistic development.

The development of students' IT skills contributes to the development of the key competencies in senior cycle and vice-versa. When this happens, all learning across senior cycle is supported and the development of important life skills that are essential to student independence are promoted. Students stand to benefit in many ways as they progress in learning pathways and as they transition to life beyond school.

¹ Digital citizenship refers to responsible, ethical, and safe use of digital technologies. It involves understanding appropriate online behaviour, respecting others' rights, protecting personal information and using technology to engage positively in digital communities.

Continuity and progression

This module builds upon students' learning and experiences with the Primary School Curriculum and the Framework for Junior Cycle. In particular, learning through the elective module IT Skills builds upon students' development of the junior cycle key skills of managing self, staying well, communicating, being creative, working with others, and managing information and thinking. The module also promotes development and learning in areas such as literacy, numeracy, language, motor coordination, mobility and leisure skills.

The elective aims to develop students' senior cycle key competencies of thinking and solving problems, managing learning and self, and communicating, and promote greater independence, as well as providing students with a sense of achievement and confidence in their learning. Students are given opportunities to demonstrate how learning acquired here can be linked to prior learning, to other modules and curriculum areas, wider school activities and life outside of school. Learning acquired here has universal transference across multiple areas of learning. This helps to reinforce learning and progress students' ability to communicate, interact, be creative and to express themselves. This supports students beyond school and provides them with a sense of achievement and confidence as they transition to the world of work, study or further services and life beyond school.

Teaching and learning

This elective module facilitates a practical, scaffolded, and student-centred approach to teaching and learning that can be applied easily across many contexts. Progressing towards achieving the learning outcomes builds confidence, as well functional digital literacy through the safe and guided use of technology. Students benefit from tangible, everyday interactions with computers and devices, which they use at school, at home or in the community.

IT Skills is an elective module where the learning can be applied across all of the student's senior cycle learning experience. The student's IT skills should not be developed in isolation but developed through the broad range of activities, projects and learning experiences which students engage with throughout senior cycle. Using presentation software, typing homework, using an online map are just some examples of cross curriculum integration and learning and demonstrates the real-world value of IT skills.

Tasks may be designed that build upon students' strengths, interests and prior learning in small, manageable steps. Habitual learning and task repetition such as logging in, opening applications, and typing name and passwords, are enabled within this elective. Other opportunities for repetition with variation could include tasks such as editing a weekly journal, diary or blog entry, all of which provide students with a sense of independence and ownership of their learning, so students gain fluency and confidence in their IT skills. Explicitly teaching online safety rules in a practical way may include recognising a suspicious message or identifying what personal information is and how to keep this information safe. Respectful communication and privacy in everyday tasks involving online interactions can be reiterated and reinforced for students.

Visual schedules, illustrated guides and checklists all help students remember sequences such as how to send an email or save a file. Teachers may wish to demonstrate tasks on a projector or shared screen enabling students to follow on their own devices. Presenting students with a choice in how they present their work, such as creating a digital poster, a video, or a PowerPoint™ presentation enables student engagement as students are automatically learning through their strengths. It is also a way of encouraging student choice and independence as students are choosing their format for presenting their work.

Students may need to use predictive text, screen readers, transcription, read aloud technologies or easier interfaces. Some may benefit from working with a peer on an assigned role within a project. This fosters sociability and enables students to develop confidence and promote independence not just in IT but in working with others. Student achievements can be acknowledged and celebrated through classroom showcases or digital displays

Module: IT Skills

Module descriptor

This module involves students using devices; typing and inputting information; understanding familiar software; understanding internet safety; and using technology to communicate and organise. Students use their experience with IT to support their school work on a daily basis, and their interactions with the online world. Students develop their awareness around the online world and how to engage safely and responsibly.

Students learn about	Students should be able to
Interactive learning Students learn how to effectively use devices and gather, organise, collate and present information in a variety of formats.	a. turn on, log on, navigate and safely exit a device b. identify and use basic digital tools, ² hardware and terminology c. create and edit text and upload/save a document to a device or cloud platform d. insert a photo, image, saved picture or video into a file e. organise files and folders on a computer or cloud platform f. create an online or digital story, diary, blog or record of events using appropriate software g. organise an inbox h. use accessibility software where appropriate i. create a table, graph or chart and insert into a file where appropriate j. use a search engine appropriately k. organise or summarise information from different sources l. present information using presentation software
Navigating online safely Students develop their awareness around researching and navigating the digital and online world safely. They find safe and appropriate websites for school and personal interests. Students apply their reasoning and thinking skills as they evaluate information they have researched and found online.	m. identify basic internet terminology such as browser, search engine, world wide web, website n. find information using strategies such as key words or terms o. recognise advertised or promoted material p. demonstrate the use of apps and devices for communication purposes

² Digital tools include software, websites, applications and other online and computerised resources.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">q. set up an online account on a website of choicer. access and complete relevant forms onlines. make an online reservation/bookingt. upload relevant documents and photographs when requiredu. stream or download music, videos or films from appropriate sourcesv. demonstrate basic online safety and digital citizenship. |
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