

Digital Learning Framework for Schools - Frequently asked questions

Q. What is the Digital Learning Framework?

The Digital Learning Framework is a set of Statements of Practice (effective and highly effective) that provide clear guidance on the use of digital technologies for teaching, learning and assessment.

The new Framework is aligned with the Domains contained in the [*Looking at our School 2016 – A Quality Framework*](#) for Primary/Post Primary Schools which is already in use.

Q. What is the purpose of the trial?

The purpose of the trial is to assess if:

- The Statements of Practice are tangible and applicable for use by schools
- The Framework has the potential to assist teachers in the embedding of technologies in their teaching and assessment practice
- The Framework provides a valid and robust structure to chart progress in the use of technologies for teaching, learning and assessment
- The training, supports and guidance are adequate and appropriate to help schools and teachers engage with the Framework.

Q. For how long with the trial run?

R. The trial commences in October 2017 with an opening one-day seminar in Dublin, and will conclude in April 2018.

Q. What supports are available to participating schools?

R. Support will be available in a number of ways. A suite of tailored supports will be designed to meet individual school needs and circumstances. There will be an introductory seminar in October for the participating schools. Each school will receive support over the trial period from a dedicated PDST advisor and this could involve up to 5 school visits. Online support will also be available. There will a final forum next April so the participating schools can meet and share experiences.

Full information on the supports available can be found at:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Information-Communications-Technology-ICT-in-Schools/DLF.html>

Q. Is additional funding available for participating schools?

R. The normal arrangements for the provision of substitution and the payment of travelling expenses for attendance at professional development activities associated with the trial will apply.

No additional costs are expected to arise for schools from their participation in the trial.

Q. Will teachers be released during the school day?

R. For the opening seminar and closing forum, the principal and one teacher per school may be released. We do not anticipate any requirement for other releases during the trial period, but if there is a pressing need, this will be considered on a case by case basis.

Q. Are there particular infrastructural requirements e.g. broadband, equipment?

R. No. The Digital Learning Framework can be utilised by all schools, regardless of existing infrastructure or broadband connectivity.

Q. Is familiarity with digital technologies required in order to participate in the trial and to utilise the Framework?

R. No. The Digital Learning Framework is intended for use in a variety of settings including those schools which up to now have had limited engagement with the use of technology for teaching and learning. The supports provided will be tailored to take account of the needs of teachers and the school.

Q: What is the relationship between Looking at Our School and the Digital Learning Framework?

A: Looking at Our School is the approved Department framework for school improvement. However, as schools identify areas of focus as part of their school improvement agenda, the Digital Learning Framework provides in depth guidance on how the use of digital technologies for teaching and learning can contribute towards the attainment of these goals.

Q: Where can I get more information?

The PDST-TiE will be supporting the implementation of the trial and the wider roll out of the Digital Learning Framework – information at <http://www.pdsttechnologyineducation.ie/en/Planning/Digital-Learning-Framework/>. There is also a dedicated email address for queries: dlfplanning@pdst.ie.