

## **Professional Development**

Excerpt from the Digital Schools of Distinction Report on the validation visit on the 27 June 2017.

St Michael's has been awarded a Digital Schools of Distinction Flag

The staff members and principal in the school all value the importance of ICT very highly and technology is very clearly embedded in the culture of the school and this is driven by the experience and motivation of the principal and other members of staff.

Their commitment to ensuring that the children have regular and structured access to ICT is evident. Many children were evidenced working independently using various different online tools and downloaded programs when I was there. They were working using Raspberry Pi, Scratch, word processing programs, conducting research using the internet and using typing programs etc. They were confident and competent in their use of the technology.

This school is a beacon to what can be achieved in the integration of ICT with limited resources. The confidence and familiarity which all the students displayed in their use of technology was truly impressive. The creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking the children showed as they displayed their ICT skills was a credit to Anne-Marie and her team.

This school meets all the criteria for Digital School of Distinction Status and I have no doubt it will continue to lead the way for other schools to follow in this area. I would like to thank the principal, her team, as well as the students of this school for helping to give us a glimpse of what a successful future might look like for Ireland when these young people reach the workforce. With schools like this, Ireland's future is secure.

## Scoring

The visit more than validated the statements on their Self Evaluation Review.