

# Digital Context



The rapid growth in the development and use of technology continues to impact significantly on schools. An increasing number of students are skilled in their use of electronic and digital resources, regularly using mobile devices as their preferred means of communication. This enables them to engage in new ways of belonging and have access to a world of ideas and knowledge literally at their fingertips. Definitions of “community” have changed to include not just a physical sense of community but also connections between people in digital communities.

These advances in the way society accesses and engages with information and networks has created new forms of language and expression with their associated cultures and sub-cultures, imagery and rituals. This digital context provides opportunities and challenges to school communities as they seek new ways of promoting the religious development and spiritual formation of students. As Pope Benedict XVI has acknowledged:

*These technologies are truly a gift to humanity and we must endeavour to ensure that the benefits they offer are put at the service of all human individuals and communities, especially those who are most disadvantaged and vulnerable (Message for the 43rd World Communications Day, 2009).*

Therefore, Religious Education at St Flannan’s School seeks to engage students in the critical, creative, and responsible use of digital tools which is an important component of digital citizenship. This enables our school community to express their learning in rich and relevant ways and connect with individuals and communities in a global context.

## **St Flannan’s RECOGNISES the importance of using digital tools in context by:**

- Providing iPads for learning and assessment
- Allowing access to YouTube clips to support learning
- Making educative links to popular culture
- Communicating between school and home via email, newsflash
- Capturing photos of student involvement and learning
- Using PowerPoints and music
- Providing one-to-one laptop access in Year 3-6