

St Peter's Catholic School

VLE Guidance Notes



What is a VLE?

VLE stands for Virtual Learning Environment. It is a single piece of software, accessed via standard web browsers, which provides an integrated online learning environment. A VLE includes the following functions:

Controlled access

This means controlled, secure, access to the curriculum that has been mapped to elements which can be separately assessed and recorded. A VLE allows the organisation of students into virtual classes, with individual, secure log-ins.

Student tracking

Tracking student activity and achievement against these elements using simple processes makes it possible for teachers to define and set up a course with accompanying materials and activities to direct, guide and monitor learner progress.

The VLE records certain basic information about students, irrespective of the learning context, including registration details, course details, course prerequisites, study time and tracking information. It offers comprehensive tracking and recording facilities. For example, it automatically records individual students' log-in time and dates, length of time online, what content has been read and how often, assessments completed, with dates and times of these activities.

Resources and materials

The VLE provides access to learning resources, assessment and guidance. The learning resources may be self-developed or professionally authored and purchased materials.

Communications

This includes communication between the learner and teacher. There are three basic methods of communication within a typical VLE: messaging, bulletin boards and chat rooms. Messages on the VLE go straight to the teacher's Inbox so it is a fast and safe way of contacting a teacher whilst at home.

The St Peter's Catholic School VLE is designed to support students learning in school and also to help them work independently at home by supplying them with the resources they need to revise, catch up on missed work, practice exams/tests etc and to undertake research to extend their subject knowledge. It is also possible for students to submit work to their teacher electronically via the VLE, although this function does not necessarily suit every subject area or activity.

The VLE is hosted by Moodle, a tried and tested public domain software package designed specifically for the job, and which is very widely used in education at all levels worldwide. We do not host the VLE on our own server, an outside organisation has responsibility for this, thus ensuring technical support 365 days a year. We do have full control over the content of our VLE.

Access is restricted by password to St Peter's School staff and students. As parents we would encourage you to look at the courses and resources that your children have access to and will be using. The content is suitable and appropriate for secondary school students, as are the websites linked to. However, we cannot be responsible for the content of any websites that may be linked to from the above sites. You would still need to exercise your normal precautions over your child's use of the internet.

Site address: <http://st-peters.moodle.webanywhere.co.uk/>

If you have any comments or questions please contact:

parents@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk or cmckinlay@st-peters.surrey.sch.uk