

## Clódóireacht/Typing

Students doing a lot of work online at the moment so this is a great opportunity to introduce them to the concept of learning to touch type. This is a worthwhile life skill that they can use for primary, secondary, 3rd level education and beyond. Some of the benefits of touch typing are:

- Save time - If you can type faster while remaining accurate, you'll save a lot of time. For example, if your typing speed is increased from 30 to 60 words per minute (wpm), you'll halve the time it takes to do the same amount of work.
- Reduce fatigue - Typing for long periods of time and having to correct errors or constantly bend your head over the keyboard to find which keys to press can be exhausting. So if you can improve your typing, it'll reduce both mental and physical fatigue.
- Improve your posture and prevent injuries - Being able to type correctly is good for your posture as you're not sitting down for a long time while hunched over and looking down at the keyboard or fixing mistakes. You'll be able to find time to stand up and stretch. What's more, using all your fingers reduces the risk for repetitive stress injuries (RSI), like hand and wrist pain.
- Improve your focus - With your new found skills, you can just focus on the work you're doing on the computer instead of trying to find the keys on the keyboard at the same time.
- Increase productivity - The time you spend typing will be halved and you'll make fewer to no mistakes, so you can get other things done.

There are two websites that we recommend and we use in school and would recommend students to use at home.

1. **Dancemat** <https://www.dancemattypingguide.com/>

The first one Dancemat is for beginners so probably for young students that haven't used a keyboard before and are starting their journey. It is divided into four levels and has three stages in each level. There are animated animal teachers that take kids through all the stages that narrate the instructions and show them where to place their fingers.

2. **Typing.com** <https://www.typing.com/>

The second one typing.com is for students that have used a keyboard before and want to start learning to touch type instead of searching for the buttons. This is suitable for advanced young typers or older students that feel that the talking animals in Dancemat are too childish for them!

This website is a fantastic resource. Students work at their own pace and it has timed typing tests. Students get effective typing instruction with helpful performance data, games and choose-your-own-adventure stories keep it fun. There are also bonus content rounds out the curriculum.