



Ashmole Primary School

Computing Policy

Introduction

This policy reflects the school values and thinking in relation to the teaching and learning of computing and the use of technology to support learning across the curriculum. This prepares pupils to participate in a rapidly changing world in which work and other activities are increasingly transformed by access to varied and developing technology.

Our vision

We believe that an engaging and motivating Computing curriculum will enable our learners to:

- Use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world.
- Make deep links with mathematics, science and design and technology.
- Build knowledge of principles of information and computation, how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use through programming.
- Become digitally literate – able to use, express themselves and develop ideas through information and communication technology

Aims

- The Computing Coordinator and leadership team support staff to deliver a high-quality computing education.
- Computational thinking – the ability to solve problems in a creative, logical and collaborative way – is developed through repeated programming opportunities and opportunities to build understanding and apply the concepts of computer science.
- Pupils become responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology.
- Pupils have a growing awareness of how technology is used in the world around them and of the benefits that it provides. They are supported to evaluate and use information technology, including new or unfamiliar technologies.
- Opportunities for communication and collaboration develop understanding of the purposes for using technology and these are used to bring together home and school learning experiences.
- Technology is used imaginatively to engage all learners and widen their learning opportunities,
- Pupils have access to a variety of devices and resources and are encouraged to reflect on the choices they make to use them.
- We expect our pupils to:
 - Develop computing skills, knowledge and understanding
 - Develop an understanding of the wider applications of computer systems and communication technology in society
 - Develop independent and logical thinking through reasoning, decision making and problem solving
 - Develop imagination and creativity
 - Work independently and collaboratively

Objectives

In order to fulfil the above aims it is necessary for us to ensure:

- a continuity of experience throughout the school both within and among year groups
- the systematic progression through key stages 1 & 2
- that the National Curriculum programmes of study and their associated strands, attainment descriptions and targets are given appropriate coverage
- that all children have access to a range of computing resources
- that computing experiences are focussed to enhance learning
- that cross curricular links are exploited where appropriate
- that children's experiences are monitored and evaluated
- that resources are used to their full extent
- that resources and equipment are kept up to date as much as possible
- that staff skills and knowledge are kept up to date

Curriculum Development & Organisation

Teachers plan from a scheme of work designed by the Computing subject leader which will enable teachers to deliver lessons that allow computing skills to be developed in a cross-curricular context. The scheme is divided into the following areas:

- Online Safety
- Digital Literacy
- Computational Thinking

Tools such as iPads are widely utilised to allow the objectives and skills within these areas to be fully met across a range of subjects in the curriculum. These mobile devices allow computing to be fully embedded within the wider curriculum and provide children with a state-of-the-art experience.

Each class will be allocated a time to focus on core computing skills that do not necessarily lend themselves to be covered in a cross curricular way. It also allows children to experience the very latest in technology, with advanced operating systems and multi-faceted software.

Classroom computers support the development of computing capability by enabling further development of tasks; utilising the Interactive Smartboard, encouraging research, and allowing for the creative use of technology in subjects. All use of technology is highlighted in subject planning.

Interactive Smartboards are located in all classrooms. These are used as a teaching and learning resource across the curriculum.

Teaching & Learning

Teachers' planning is differentiated to meet the range of needs in any class including those children who may need extra support, those who are in line with average expectations and those working above average expectations for children of their age.

A wide range of styles are employed to ensure all children are sufficiently challenged:

- Children may be required to work individually, in pairs or in small groups according to the nature or activity of the task
- Different pace of working
- Different groupings of children - groupings may be based on ability either same ability or mixed ability
- Different levels of input and support
- Different outcomes expected

The Computing coordinator and Head Teacher will review teachers' computing plans to ensure a range of teaching styles are employed to cater for all needs and promote the development of computing capability.

Equal Opportunities

It is our policy to ensure equal opportunities for all pupils by:

- ensuring all children follow the scheme of work for computing
- keeping a record of children's use of technology to ensure equal access and fairness of distribution of Computing resources
- providing curriculum materials and software which are in no way class, gender or racially prejudice or biased
- monitoring the level of access to computers in the home environment to ensure no pupils are unduly disadvantaged

Internet Safety

Internet access is planned to enrich and extend learning activities.

The school has acknowledged the need to ensure that all pupils are responsible and safe users of the Internet and other communication technologies. An Online policy is followed to protect all parties and rules for responsible internet usage. Although the school offers a safe online environment through filtered internet access we recognise the importance of teaching our children about online safety and their responsibilities when using communication technology.

Social Networking

All lessons should start off with a reminder on internet safety. Teachers plan in lessons on internet safety at the beginning of each half-term to ensure that children are kept up to date with the latest steps on how to ensure their privacy and safety online. In KS2, this has involved teachers tailoring lessons to the latest innovations in social networking – providing practical advice (often referring to individual sites) on how to remain safe online. Lessons surrounding this also encourage children to share practical advice on how to stay safe on sites that the children regularly use. There is also a policy of reporting under-age users of social networking sites to the relevant authorities.

Management Information Systems (MIS)

The use of computers enables efficient and effective access to and storage of data for the school's management team, teachers and administrative staff.

The school complies with the Ashmole Trust requirements for the management of information in schools. We currently use Scholar Pack, which operates on the school's administrative network and is supported by our Ashmole Academy technicians. The school has defined roles & responsibilities to ensure data is well maintained, secure and that appropriate access is properly managed with appropriate training provided.

Assessment

Computing is assessed in a formative manner using a bespoke assessment system in Microsoft Word. This system is based on current National Curriculum and provides an easy to use interface for both staff and pupils to track and analyse pupil progress.

Formative assessment occurs on a lesson by lesson basis, based on the lesson objectives and skill descriptors in the scheme of work. This information is then used to inform future planning.

The assessment document is used by teachers termly to track the attainment of children.

Each child's work is easily accessible on the school network and their portfolio of work will stay with them for their entire time at Ashmole – allowing progression to be easily assessed by both teachers and senior management. The teacher keeps a portfolio of work of pupils in each year group with examples of work for each half term and a unit evaluation.

School liaison, transfer and transition

The school is connected to the internet via LGFL which enables the transfer of information electronically.

Email is used extensively by staff for internal communication and sharing of minutes, policy updates etc. All teaching and non-teaching staff have email accounts and have agreed to the protocol for use of email within school. Email is used frequently to liaise with members of the Trust, governing body, other schools and, where possible, parents.

Inclusion/SEN

We recognise information and communication technology offers particular opportunities for our pupils with special educational needs and gifted and/or talented children and /or children with English as an additional language for example. Computing can cater for the variety of learning styles which a class of children may possess.

Using information and communication technology can:

- increase access to the curriculum
- raise levels of motivation and self esteem
- improve the accuracy and presentation of work
- address individual needs

We aim to maximise the use and benefits of technology as one of many resources to enable all pupils to achieve their full potential. If the situation arises, the school will endeavour to provide appropriate resources to suit the specific needs of individual or groups of children.

Roles & responsibilities

Senior Management Team

The overall responsibility for the use of information and communication technology rests with the senior management of a school. The Head, in consultation with staff:

- determines the ways technology should support, enrich and extend the curriculum
- decides the provision and allocation of resources
- decides ways in which developments can be assessed, and records maintained
- ensures that technology is used in a way to achieve the aims and objectives of the school
- ensures that there is a Computing policy, and identifies a Computing co-ordinator

Computing Coordinator

There is a designated, class-based Computing Co-ordinator to provide leadership the planning and delivery of computing within the school.

The Computing Coordinator will be responsible for

- raising standards in Computing as a national curriculum subject
- facilitating the use of technology across the curriculum in collaboration with all subject coordinators
- providing or organising training to keep staff skills and knowledge up to date
- advising colleagues about effective teaching strategies, managing equipment and purchasing resources
- monitoring the delivery of the Computing curriculum and reporting to the Head Teacher on the current status of the subject

Subject Coordinators

There is a clear distinction between teaching and learning within computing lessons and teaching and learning using information and communication technology across the curriculum. Subject coordinators should identify where technology should be used in their subject schemes of work. This might involve the use of short dedicated programs that support specific learning objectives or involve children using a specific application which they have been taught how to use as part of their Computing lessons and are applying those skills within the context of another curriculum subject. Subject coordinators work in partnership with the Computing coordinator to ensure all National Curriculum statutory requirements are being met with regard to the use of technology within curriculum subjects.

Monitoring

Monitoring Computing will enable the Computing coordinator to gain an overview of Computing teaching and learning throughout the school. This will assist the school in the self evaluation process identifying areas of strength as well as those for development.

In monitoring of the quality of Computing teaching and learning the Computing coordinator will:

- Scrutinise plans to ensure full coverage of the Computing curriculum requirements
- Analyse children's work
- Conduct pupil interviews
- Observe Computing teaching and learning in the classroom
- Hold discussions with teachers
- Analyse assessment data

Learning Out of School Hours

A Computing club will operate at lunchtimes on a weekly basis. This club will be offered to all KS2 year groups across the school on a termly rotation for the gifted and talented children.

We believe this access to Computing out of school hours will:

- Increase the time our children spend learning
- Increase access to technology especially for those children without a computer at home
- Enable some children to develop and extend personal hobbies and interests
- Develop computing capability; potentially raising self esteem, motivation and standards of achievement

Health & Safety

We will operate all Computing equipment in compliance with Health & Safety requirements. Children will also be made aware of the correct way to sit when using the computer and the need to take regular breaks if they are to spend any length of time on computers. The school also has an Online policy.

Our administration and curriculum networks are separate to ensure security against access to our management system. All computers are password protected. The administration system is backed up regularly. The virus checker is updated regularly.

Home school links

Children are given the option to complete some homework tasks, when appropriate, using technology out of school. Teachers are sensitive to the fact that children may not have access to technology or may not wish to use it to complete tasks out of school. Any work brought into school must be scanned for viruses.

A school email address has been given to parents and will be listed in the newsletter. The school website will promote the school's achievements as well as providing information and communication between the school, parents and the local community.

Appropriate legislation, including copyright and data protection

All software loaded on school computer systems must have been agreed with the designated person in the school. All our software is used in strict accordance with the licence agreement. Licenses are held centrally.

We do not allow personal software to be loaded onto school computers. Please refer to the school's Data protection policy.

Google Classroom Learning Environment

The school has access to a Google Classroom virtual classroom. This provides a portal that children can access at home to extend their learning. The Google Classroom will be used both at school and at home and will allow parents to take a shared interest in the work that their children are undertaking within the classroom.

The Primary Google Classroom will give learners:

- A personalised learning space with a personal e-portfolio
- Access to the service from within school, at home or at any location connected to the Internet
- Access to their personal content and content held by a number of different content suppliers
- A wide range of tools for learning and collaboration.
- Access to resources that enhance the learning that takes place in the classroom.
- A link to their classmates that allows resources, ideas and links to be shared

Each year group will have their own Virtual Google Classroom and each child will have his/her own home page. Children will regularly access the Google Classroom to share experiences of their learning with other classmates. It is hoped that this can be developed further, creating links with schools in other countries so that children's understanding of the global dimension is enhanced.

Effective and efficient deployment of Computing resources

Computing resources are deployed throughout the school to maximise access, to enhance teaching & learning and to raise attainment.

To enable regular and whole class teaching of Computing the school has wireless laptops and iPad facilities which all classes in key stages 1 & 2 can use for approximately 1 hour per week to develop their computing skills.

To support the cross curricular nature of Computing, children also have access to these resources during the week. This allows Computing to be delivered in a cross curricular manner and enhance the learning of children in a range of other curriculum subjects.

The school's interactive smartboards are located in classrooms. All staff have a classroom PC for use with these and internet access is available in all classrooms, both wirelessly and through LAN cables. Additionally, each teacher has access to a laptop to enable them to plan lessons and prepare resources at home.

Where possible, a consistent interface is provided on all machines to enable familiarity and continuity with generic 'toolkit' software licensed and available on all curriculum computers in school. Subject specific titles and any specialist equipment e.g. sensors, are kept in the Computing subject leader's cupboard and can be borrowed when needed.

September 2023

Next review due: September 2024