Computing Policy

Reviewed Mar 2024

Policy Approved by: _____

At meeting on: _____

Computing Policy

Vision Statement

“We shine like stars to achieve and make a difference in the world, knowing that with God, all things are possible”.

At Aspull Church Primary School, our Christian Values are weaved into everything that we do. Our Computing aims and objectives are written with these values at the heart of all we do.

Faith **Hope**

Love

Friendship **Kindness**

Believe **Forgiveness**

Trust **Patience**

Respect **Joy**

Peace

Introduction

This policy reflects the schools values in relation to the teaching and learning of computing and the use of technology to support learning across the curriculum. It prepares pupils to participate and embrace the ever changing technologies in our world, whilst providing them with the skills and knowledge they need today and in turn, prepare them for the technological changes and demands of the future.

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 how digital systems work and how to put this knowledge to use through programming.

- Become digitally literate – be able to use, express themselves and develop ideas through a range of technology.

Aims

The National Curriculum has a focus on computational thinking and creativity, as well as opportunities for creative work in programming and digital media. There are three aspects of the Computing curriculum: computer science, information technology and digital literacy. The Computing subject leader and senior leadership team aim to deliver a high quality computing education by:

- Providing opportunities for computational thinking – the ability to solve problems in a creative, logical and collaborative way – this 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 computing technology, including new or unfamiliar technologies.
- Equip pupils with skills, strategies and knowledge that will enable them to reap the benefits of the online world, whilst being able to minimise the risk to themselves and others.
- Opportunities for communication and collaboration tasks to understand of the purposes for using technology and these are used to bring together new skills and understanding.
- Use technology creatively and imaginatively to engage all learners and widen their learning opportunities.
- Pupils have access to a variety of devices and are encouraged to reflect on the choices they make when using 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
    - Work independently and collaboratively

Objectives

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

- A continuity of experience and the systematic progression throughout the school through both key stage 1 & 2

- That the National Curriculum programmes of study and their associated strands, level descriptions and attainment target 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 provided where and when appropriate
- That resources and equipment are kept up to date as much as possible
- That staff are provided with up to date computing developments and CPD opportunities when available

Curriculum Development & Organisation

Teachers plan computing lessons using the scheme of work from ICT with Mr P which enables teachers to deliver computing specific lessons. These new skills and experiences are then transferred and developed in a cross-curricular context. Over the school year children will work on a variety of computing strands such as:

- E-Safety and Digital Literacy
- Coding and Computational Thinking
- Technology in our lives
- Communication and Networks
- Handling and Presenting Data

iPads are used alongside computers and chrome books, to allow all objectives and skills within each strand to be fully met, across a range of subjects in the curriculum. These devices allow computing to be fully embedded within the wider curriculum. Each class is allocated a computing time to focus on core computing skills that do not necessarily lend themselves to be covered in a cross curricular way.

Interactive whiteboards 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 are working above average expectations for children of their age.

A wide range of teaching 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 subject leader will review teachers' computing plans to ensure a range of teaching styles are used to cater for the needs of all learners.

Equal Opportunities

It is our priority at Aspull Church to ensure equal opportunities for all pupils. We do this by:

- Ensuring all children follow the scheme of work for computing
- 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.

The school currently uses 'Senso' to monitor the appropriateness of internet usage. If a child or member of staff comes across an unsuitable website they are to inform their class teacher immediately. Before children are allowed access to the Internet an acceptable use policy must be signed by the child (see appendix). Internet traffic through school will be monitored and it will be checked regularly to ensure that children and staff have acted sensibly and professionally.

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.

Internet safety is planned into our lessons and is drip fed throughout the teaching across the year. In KS2, teachers may tailor 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/social media that the children regularly use.
For additional information please see E-Safety Policy

Assessment

Computing is assessed in a formative manner using whole assessment tracker - Arbor. This system is based on current National Curriculum and provides an easy to use interface for both staff and SLT 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.

Inclusion/SEN

We recognise computing offers particular opportunities for our pupils with special educational needs, gifted and talented children and children with English as an additional language for example.

Using Computing can:

- increase access to the different curriculum demands
- raise levels of motivation and self esteem
- improve the accuracy and presentation of work
- provide exciting and engaging learning opportunities

We aim to use technology as one of many resources within school 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 Leadership Team

The overall responsibility for the use of Computing rests with the senior leadership of the school. The Headteacher, 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 subject leader

Computing Subject Leader

It is the subject leader's role to provide leadership for the planning, delivery and assessment of Computing within the school. The Computing subject leader will be responsible for:

- Raising standards in Computing as a national curriculum subject
- Facilitating the use of technology across the curriculum
- 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 Headteacher on the current status of the subject

Monitoring

Monitoring Computing will enable the Computing subject leader to gain an overview of the teaching and learning within this subject throughout the school. In monitoring of the quality of Computing teaching and learning, the Computing subject leader will:

- View 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

Health & Safety

- We will operate all computing equipment in compliance with Health & Safety requirements.
- The school also has a 'Responsible Use of The Internet Policy' which all staff and pupils agree.
- All computers and staff IPads are password protected. The administration system is backed up regularly.

Home school links

Children are given the option to complete some homework tasks using technology out of school. Teachers are sensitive to the fact that children may not have access to technology to complete tasks out of school. Children, if required, are given the opportunity to use technology in school to complete any outstanding tasks.

The school website and social media pages 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 don't allow personal software to be loaded onto school computers. *Please refer to the school's Data protection policy*. Computing resources are deployed throughout the school to maximise access, to enhance teaching & learning and to raise attainment.

The school's interactive whiteboards are located in classrooms. They are permanently mounted. All staff have use of a laptop for use with these and internet access is available in all classrooms, both wirelessly and through LAN cables. In addition to this, all staff have access to an iPad to support their work and for use within lessons.