

Computing Policy



St. Mary's RC Primary School

Mission Statement

- We will always open our doors wide in welcome.
- We will always love and care for each other as Jesus taught us.
- We will always place the Word of God at the heart of our School.
- We will always worship God our Father.
- We will always be witnesses to Jesus Christ by following in his footsteps.

Written by: Miss Roberts

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Approved by governors on:
October 2024

Policy will be reviewed: Annually

Aims

Saint Mary's School believes that every child should have the right to a curriculum that champions excellence, supporting pupils in achieving to the very best of their abilities. We understand the immense value technology plays not only in supporting the Computing and whole school curriculum but overall, in the day-to-day life of our school.

We believe that technology can provide enhanced collaborative learning opportunities, better engagement of pupils, easier access to rich content, support conceptual understanding of new concepts and can support the needs of all our pupils.

Our aims:

- Provide an exciting, rich, relevant, and challenging Computing curriculum for all pupils.
 - Enthuse and equip children with the capability to use technology throughout their lives.
 - Give children access to a variety of high- quality hardware, software and unplugged resources.
 - Instil critical thinking, reflective learning and a 'can do' attitude for all our pupils, particularly when engaging with technology and its associated resources.
 - Teach pupils to become responsible, respectful and competent users of data, information and communication technology.
 - Teach pupils to understand the importance of governance and legislation regarding how information is used, stored, created, retrieved, shared and manipulated.
 - Equip pupils with skills, strategies and knowledge that will enable them to reap the benefits of the online world, whilst being able to minimise risk to themselves or others.
 - Use technology imaginatively and creatively to inspire and engage all pupils, as well as using it to be more efficient in the tasks associated with running an effective school.
 - Provide technology solutions for forging better home and school links.
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- Utilise computational thinking beyond the Computing curriculum.
- Exceed the minimum government recommended/statutory guidance for programmes of study for Computing and other related legislative guidance (online safety).

Safeguarding: Online safety

Online safety has a high profile at Saint Mary's School for all stakeholders. We ensure this profile is maintained and that pupil needs are met by the following:

- A relevant up-to-date online safety curriculum which is progressive from Early Years to the end of Year 6.
- A curriculum that is threaded throughout other curriculums and embedded in the day-to-day lives of our pupils.
- Training for staff and governors which is relevant to their needs and ultimately positively impacts on the pupils.
- Scheduled pupil voice sessions and learning walks steer changes and inform training needs.
- Through our home/school links and communication channels, parents are kept up to date with relevant online safety matters, policies and agreements. They know who to contact at school if they have concerns.
- Pupils, staff and parents have Acceptable Use Policies which are signed and copies freely available.
- Our online safety policy (part of our safeguarding policy) clearly states how monitoring of online safety is undertaken and any incidents/infringements to it are dealt with.
- Filtering and monitoring systems for all our online access. Data policies which stipulate how we keep confidential information secure.

Curriculum

As a school, we have chosen the Purple Mash Computing Scheme of Work from Reception to Year 6. The scheme of work supports our teachers in delivering fun and engaging lessons which help to raise standards and allow all pupils to achieve to their full potential. We are confident that the scheme of work more than adequately meets the national vision for Computing. It provides immense flexibility, strong cross-curricular links and integrates perfectly with the 2Simple Computing Assessment Tool. Furthermore, it gives excellent supporting material for less confident teachers.

Early Years

We aim to provide our pupils with a broad, play-based experience of Computing in a range of contexts. We believe the following:

- Early Years learning environments should feature ICT scenarios based on experience in the real world, such as in role-play.
- Pupils gain confidence, control and language skills through opportunities to 'paint' on the interactive board/devices or control remotely operated toys.
- Outdoor exploration is an important aspect, supported by ICT toys such as metal detectors, controllable traffic lights and walkie-talkie sets.
- Recording devices can support children to develop their communication skills. This is especially useful for children who have English as an additional language.

Key Stage 1 outcomes

- Understand what algorithms are, how they are implemented as programs on digital devices, and that programs execute by following a sequence of instructions.
- Write and test simple programs.
- Organise, store, manipulate and retrieve data in a range of digital formats.
- Communicate safely and respectfully online, keeping personal information private, and recognise common uses of information technology beyond school.

Key Stage 2 outcomes

- Design and write programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling or simulating physical systems; solve problems by decomposing them into smaller parts.
- Use sequence, selection and repetition in programs; work with variables and various forms of input and output; generate appropriate inputs and predicted outputs to test programs.

- Use logical reasoning to explain how a simple algorithm works and to detect and correct errors in algorithms and programs.
- Understand computer networks including the internet; how they can provide multiple services, such as the worldwide web; and the opportunities they offer for communication and collaboration.
- Describe how Internet search engines find and store data; use search engines effectively; be discerning in evaluating digital content; respect individuals and intellectual property; use technology responsibly, securely and safely.
- Select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information.

Assessment

As a school, St.Mary's has chosen to follow the Purple Mash Schemes of work as detailed within this policy. We try as much as possible to ensure that cross-curricular elements are being covered throughout core and non-core subjects and aim to ensure that computing isn't just viewed as a discrete subject. The teaching of Computing throughout the school will endeavour to create excellence and enjoyment within the creative curriculum. Children will participate in whole class lessons and engage in some paired, group and individual tasks too.

All staff are aware that knowledge organisers for the unit being taught should be presented to the children at the beginning of each new unit of work. They should be displayed on classroom computing displays so that children can make regular reference to them throughout their unit of work. Staff are expected to upload these knowledge organisers to the designated website page too. This provides children and their parents/carers with the opportunity to access these documents at home and familiarise themselves with the key information.

Pupil attainment is assessed using the assessment documents provided by Purple Mash. These documents enable staff to accurately identify attainment of pupils through the detailed exemplification it has for each key learning intention; these have also been adapted to suit our mixed year classes. As each lesson progresses, teachers will use Purple Mash resources to monitor and assess pupils' knowledge of taught concepts. They will use these resources to aid their formative assessments and inform future planning and next steps. At the end of each unit of work, as in all other subjects, children will be assessed on their overall understanding of the topic. In order to do this, staff will utilise the assessment documents provided on Purple Mash. Individual teacher assessment of Computing will then be recorded on Itrack and each teacher will provide the Computing Lead (***Miss Jessica Roberts***) with three pieces of work as supporting evidence.

Resources

All resources are procured with the underlining considerations of value: The extent at which the resource impacts on learning and the material cost of this. Protocol details for procurement can be found in the school finance policy.

- A range of resources is available which successfully supports delivering the Computing curriculum and enables all learners to reach their full potential.
- Resources are suitably maintained and replenished when needed, which is overseen by the Computing Leader.
An itemised list of all resources is shared with staff and kept up to date by the Computing Leader.
- Audits of school resources are conducted regularly by the Computing Leader, which informs bidding for budgets allocations.
- The Computing Leader keeps up to date with the latest technology resources and will make informed decisions about possible procurement of them through their own research.
- Suggestions for getting the very best out of the resources are made available to teaching and support staff by the Computing Leader.
- The Computing Action Plan details foreseen future resource procurement which is shared with senior leaders before the budget setting period.

Inclusion

At Saint Mary's School, we aim to enable all children to achieve to their full potential. This includes children of all abilities, social and cultural backgrounds, those with disabilities, EAL speakers and SEN statement and non-statemented.

We place particular emphasis on the flexibility technology brings to allowing pupils to access learning opportunities, particularly pupils with SEN and disabilities. With this in mind, we will ensure additional access to technology is provided throughout the school day and in some cases beyond the school day.



Monitoring, Evaluation and Feedback

Monitoring standards of teaching and learning within Computing is the primary responsibility of the Computing Leader. All teachers are expected to keep an online portfolio or track children's work using Purple Mash. This portfolio must contain work samples from all areas of the curriculum taught for the year group.

Details of monitoring and evaluation schedules can be found in the Computing Action Plan and School Monitoring Schedule.

Monitoring will be achieved through:

- Work scrutiny.
- Learning walks.
- Observations.
- Pupil voice.
- Teacher voice.
- Reflective teacher feedback.
- Learning environment monitoring.
- Dedicated Computing Leader and Assessment Leader time.

Evaluation and Feedback will be achieved through:

- Dedicated Computing Leader and Assessment Leader time.
- Using recognised standards documentation for end-of-year expectations.
- Using recognised national standards for benchmarking Computing provision in primary schools.
- Written feedback on evaluation of monitoring activities to be provided by the Computing Leader in a timely manner.
- Feedback on whole school areas of development in regard to Computing to be fed back through insets/AOB/staff meetings.

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Roles and Responsibilities

Due to technology extending beyond the National Curriculum for Computing, there are key roles and responsibilities specific members of staff have.

Head Teacher

- Monitoring the implementation of the Computing Policy and its associated policies such as the Safeguarding and SEND Policies.
- Ratifying (in conjunction with the Governing Body) the Computing policy, Safeguarding policy and Computing Leader's Action Plan.
- Securing technical support service contracts and infrastructure maintenance contracts.
- Approving CPD and training which is in line with the whole school's strategic plan.
- Approving budget bids and setting them.
- Creating in conjunction with the Computing Leader, a long-term vision for Computing which includes forecasted expenditure and resources.
- Monitoring the performance of the Computing Leader in respect to their specific job role description for Computing.
- Ensuring any government legislation is being met and communicating regularly with the Computing Lead.

- Raising the profile of Computing for all stakeholders.
- Monitoring the standards of Computing and feeding back to staff in a timely fashion so they can act on areas for development. Ensuring assessment systems are in place for Computing.
- Maintaining overall consistency in standards of Computing across the school.
- Reporting on Computing at specific times of the year to the Governing Body/Head/Staff.
- Auditing the needs of the staff in terms of training/CPD.
- Actively supporting staff with their day-to-day practice.
Seeking out opportunities to inspire staff in developing their practice through modelling and sharing new ideas, approaches and initiatives.
- Attending training and keeping abreast with the latest educational technology initiatives.
- Using nationally recognised standards to benchmark Computing.
- Creating Action Plans for Computing and supporting a long-term vision which feeds into the whole school development plan.
- Creating bids for the annual budgets and monitoring budget spend.

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- Keeping an up-to-date log of all resources available to staff.
- Procuring physical and online resources that demonstrate best value.
- Reviewing the Computing curriculum and developing it as needed.
- Overseeing the effectiveness of the technician.
- Working as needed with the SENCO/Head Teacher to ensure online safety provision is above adequate and all legislation is in place.

Technician

- Conducts routine scheduled maintenance/updates on systems.
- Supports the administration and set-up of online services including the school website.
- Fixes errors/issues with hardware and software set-up, prioritising as needed.
- Routinely checks school filtering, monitoring and virus protection.
- Sets up new hardware and installations.
- Maintains network connectivity and stability.
- Supports the Computing Leader and Head Teacher with future infrastructure needs and associated projected costs

Administration Staff/Head Teacher/Technician/Computing Leader

- Maintains the school website content.
- Posts approved requests to the school's social media accounts.
- Supports procurement of resources and technical services.
- Supports the technician with some data management.

Health and Safety

Saint Mary's School takes all necessary measures to ensure both staff and pupils are aware of the importance of health and safety.

Both staff and pupils are trained to handle electrical equipment correctly including how to power off and on. Pupils are reminded about the dangers of electricity and the danger signs to look out for. Adequate displays and warning signs are strategically placed around the school to reinforce health and safety.

