

Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School



Computing Policy

Let your light shine before people so that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5: v.16)

Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian community

This policy reflects the school values and philosophy in relation to the teaching and learning of computing at Grimsargh St Michael's. It sets out a framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can operate, and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment. The policy should be read in conjunction with the National Curriculum for computing which sets out what pupils in different key stages should be taught.

This document is intended for all teaching and non-teaching staff with classroom responsibilities and school governors. Copies of this policy will be available for parents who wish to see it and this can be requested at the school office.

Introduction

A high-quality computing education equips pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. The core of computing is computer science, in which pupils are taught the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. Building on this knowledge and understanding, pupils are equipped to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of content. Computing also ensures that pupils become digitally literate at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

Aims

The national curriculum for computing aims to ensure that all pupils:

- can understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including logic and algorithms
- can analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs in order to solve such problems
- can evaluate and apply information technology, including new or unfamiliar technologies, analytically to solve problems
- are responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology.

Subject organisation

The school uses the national curriculum computing programmes of study for key stages 1 and 2. This new curriculum is being implemented throughout the school with each class teacher being responsible for the delivery of their year group's work. As this is a brand new curriculum, it will take time for children to reach the new expectations for the end of the key stages.

The units of work are usually taught during weekly computing lessons although they could also be taught in a cross-curricular way. The time allocation is an hour a week in both key stages.

Planning and Monitoring

Long term planning is taken from the national curriculum programmes of study for each key stage. Each class teacher is responsible for producing medium term plans, outlining the objectives from a particular unit of work and short-term weekly plans, which deliver the objectives and skills.

It is the responsibility of the co-ordinator to monitor the implementation of the computing curriculum. This is mainly done through examination of medium and short term plans, as well as through discussion with colleagues.

Assessment

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to assess the computing skills, knowledge and understanding of their pupils at regular intervals to inform their future planning.

It is the responsibility of the co-ordinator to have an overview of the progress of pupils throughout the school. The co-ordinator conducts a scrutiny of work to see both the breadth of work covered, and attainment of pupils in each year group.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the curriculum is a whole school responsibility. Through regular discussion and evaluation, the co-ordinator and staff can identify any training needs and any necessary alterations to the structure or content.

Equal Opportunities

Every child at Grimsargh St Michael's will be given equal access to the computing curriculum provided by the school.

Hardware

The school has an ICT Suite with 16 multimedia PCs and extra laptops available for pupils to use when timetabled for the suite.

All classes have an interactive whiteboard and projector. All classes also have access to 2 multimedia PCs. The junior resource area contains an additional 4 multimedia PCs for general use. We also have a mobile laptop suite and 2 cases of 16 I-pads. They are all on a wireless network and can be used within all the classrooms.

All school-based machines are connected to the Internet. All computers are networked to a computer, which is utilised as a file server allowing children and staff to save any of their work in their own personal file.

There are also 2 sets of iPads with 16 in each trolley (one in infants and one in juniors) available for use.

All teaching staff have their own personal laptop and iPad which is loaned to them by school for the duration of their employment at Grimsargh St Michael's. Staff have to ensure that their own personal home insurance covers them for any loss or damage to the laptop. Staff have to complete an ownership form to demonstrate such insurance cover.

The upgrading or replacement of hardware is dependent upon two factors. Firstly, whether the existing hardware can cope with the demands of the applications needed to deliver the computing scheme of work and support the curriculum. Secondly, the school's budgetary constraints at that time.

It is the responsibility of the subject leader in conjunction with the Head teacher and the technician to assess these needs, plan for future development, ensure compatibility with the existing school hardware and find the most cost effective solution.

The school's technician is responsible for the installation of software and upkeep of the computers. All staff should provide a written record of any technical issues on the ICT log that is kept in the school office and also open a ticket with Ed It out technical support. The subject leader oversees this area.

On line safety

School policy and guidance on these aspects of computing can be found in the Primary safety framework document. On-line safety is reviewed regularly each half-term in every class. We also have an on-line safety team in Year 6 who will deliver a talk/lesson about on-line safety in each of the three infant classes once per half-term. Children and staff all sign up annually to an Acceptable Use Policy.

COVID and Technology/Hardware

Staff are aware that desktop computers keyboards and mouse are to be cleaned following use in the ICT suite or in class- similarly with Ipads.

Please also see recent Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) to be sent home with parents who are allocated loan of laptops during periods school is not accessible for all, or who are self-isolating.

Date of policy review – January 2021

Date for next policy review – January 2022