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

Intent

At Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School, we aim to create and implement an engaging and well-rounded computing curriculum which enables children to be confident in the use of equipment, software and safe use of the internet, via progressive work on online safety.

Today's children and young people are growing up in a digital world. As they grow older, it is crucial that they learn to balance the benefits offered by technology with a critical awareness of their own and other's online behaviour, and develop effective strategies for staying safe and making a positive contribution online. Online Safety is an integral part of our computing curriculum and aligns to 'Education for a Connected World' so that children focus on the key aspects of online education which will support our children to live knowledgeably, responsibly and safely in a digital world.

Implementation

Our Computing curriculum follows the Purple Mash Computing Scheme of Work.

We have in place:

- Computing 'Curriculum Overview' and 'Progression' documents. The Progression Document outlines the knowledge and skills that all children must master. It also highlights what to observe in learning to assess if children are meeting expectations, exceeding expectations or working towards expectations.
- Planning for teachers, including a series of lessons which carefully plans for progression and depth. For this we follow a bespoke sequence of Purple Mash planning units and their associated resources. For coding, children will also use Scratch/Scratch Jnr.
- Online Safety planning which is based on the document Education for a Connected World and uses the Project Evolve online resource.
- Digital Learning Journals, from the end of Year 2, where children build a portfolio of evidence as they create their own individual digital learning journals.
- Information is shared with the school community through the school website, Facebook/Instagram and Seesaw.
- In the Early Years children have a broad, play based experience of ICT in a range of contexts. Pupils build confidence to use technology purposefully to support their learning for all Early Learning Goals as appropriate.

At Grimsargh St Michael's, we ensure that all pupils have an awareness and understanding of Online Safety. This will ensure that all technology is used safely, respectfully and responsibly. A progressive online safety curriculum ensures that all pupils are able to develop skills to keep them safe online.

- The Project Evolve scheme is used to ensure progression and coverage, following the themes of Education for a Connected World. Opportunities for learning about Online Safety are evident throughout the scheme.
- Online Safety also forms part of the PSHE curriculum and is reinforced whenever technology is used.
- Safer Internet Day takes place in February to promote the safe and positive use of technology for children and the community.

See our Online Safety Policy for more detail.

Impact

Our computing curriculum has been structured to demonstrate a progression of skills and ensures that children can build on their understanding, as each new concept and skill is taught with opportunities for children to revisit skills and knowledge as they progress through school.

Teachers assess children's knowledge, understanding and skills in computing by making observations, through conversations with the children during lessons, the children's computing journal and the quality of the digital content they create. Built into the activities are several points were the teacher has the opportunity to assess and take stock of the children's progress, then provide feedback.

In the Purple Mash Computing Scheme of Work the children build a portfolio of evidence as they create their own individual digital learning journals. These digital books are saved in individual folders offering each pupil a place to store their digital work.

At the end of each term, the class teacher makes a judgement as to whether a child is working at the standard expected, working towards this expected standard or working at a Greater Depth within this expected standard.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:
- Scrutiny of Digital Portfolios
- Pupil discussions about their learning; which includes discussion of their thoughts, ideas, processing and evaluations of work.
- Staff discussion and auditing.

Resources and Access

The school has a range of resources to support the delivery of the computing curriculum, the Early Years Framework and learning across all areas of the National curriculum.

Online tools such as Mathletics and Purple Mash form part of the online learning experience for our pupils.

The computing subject leader keeps abreast of new technologies and reviews the school's provision, as well as maintaining the existing resources in partnership with the school's technology support provider. We have access to laptops, computers and iPads across EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

Hardware and software faults are reported to the IT support company, Ed-It Solutions, who visit school weekly and can also maintain remotely.

The Computing Subject Development Plan expresses the school's priorities for future expenditure and is reviewed by the computing subject leader, governors and senior management who consider its impact on all learning.

Governors and Senior Leaders ensure that they achieve value for money by implementing the principles of best value in evaluating, planning, procuring and using technology.

Old resources are disposed of in line with Lancashire County Council's environmental disposal policy and the school's data protection policy where these are applicable.

The school also receives technical support from Ed-IT Solutions- they are responsible for the maintenance of computers, printers, the school network and keeping software up to date. The subject leader liaises with the technician to ensure that the systems are running efficiently.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development
Computing provides opportunities to promote:

Spiritual development, through helping pupils recognise the diversity around us and how we can reach out and interact with people on the other side of the world. This could be for collaborative projects, charity work, research and reading news articles. Technology unites the world, children are able to interact with other people and work on collaborative projects.

Moral development, children are aware of how to be safe on the internet and how to make the most out of the resources they have. Often, children are developing moral skills and judgements by deciding what would be an appropriate choice to keep themselves safe. This work is consolidated in their half termly digital literacy lesson, where e-safety is discussed.

Social development, computing is a very collaborative subject and it allows children to continuously work with others and share ideas and roles within a group. Computing encourages children to listen to one another's opinions and ideas and problem solve in groups. Often, children have the opportunity to present their final piece of work and receive praise and critiques from their peers. This is a character-building exercise that supports social development.

Multicultural development, through close interactions and links with other people and places in the world. Technology brings people together and unites them in a shared interest.

Equalities
All teaching and non-teaching staff at Grimsargh St Michael's Primary School are responsible for ensuring that all pupils, irrespective of gender, ability, ethnic origin and social circumstances have access to the whole curriculum and the opportunity to make the greatest progress possible in all areas of the curriculum while in our school.

Special Educational Needs and Disability
The children with Special Needs will have access to the full computing curriculum. Some children may find difficulty using different types of computing equipment for example, due to their physical disability or medical needs. Additional support will be given to these children enabling them to take a full and active role. Tasks will also be adapted where necessary so that the children can succeed. Sensitive grouping should also minimise difficulties.

Links to other Policies
The following policies may be read in conjunction with the Computing Policy for further information:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Acceptable Use Agreements
- Equalities
- SEN
- Assessment

- Online Safety

Security

- The ICT and computing support company will be responsible for regularly updating anti-virus software.
- Use of ICT and computing will be in line with the school's Acceptable Use Policy- all staff, volunteers and children must sign a copy of the schools AUP.
- Staff, children and their parents/ carers will read, sign and return the 'Acceptable Use Agreements'.

Signed: **Miss Emma Threlfall**

Date: **September 2023**

Review Date: **September 2024**

Agreed by the Curriculum Committee: 27th September 2023