

Policy for Computing		  <small>'Together we Achieve Believe Care'</small>
Date of Policy:	Spring 2018	Committee: Curriculum and Standards
Next Review:	Spring 2020	

Together we Achieve, Together we Believe, Together we Care

Achieve: Together we will be the very best that we can be.

Believe: Together we will live, share, experience and celebrate our Catholic faith.

Care: Together we will be a safe, caring community where we value ourselves, respect and care for others and all of God's creation.

MISSION/VALUE

- The use of information and communication technology is an integral part of the National Curriculum and is a key skill for everyday life.
- A major part of education is preparing pupils for their future, independent lives. It is recognised by the Government and leaders in education that an ever increasing number of jobs require significant Computing skills. Current trends suggest this percentage will increase year on year.
- Therefore, it is imperative that these fundamental skills are developed in primary school through the teaching of a thorough Computing curriculum.
- Computing allows pupils an opportunity to harness new technologies to bring other areas of the curriculum to life in fresh and exciting ways.
- The Computer Science element of the curriculum helps to develop analytical thinking, attention to detail and problem solving skills. These skills are transferable to many other subjects, namely science and mathematics. They are also important life skills.

THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

- The national curriculum for computing aims to ensure that all pupils can:
 - Understand and apply the fundamental principles of computer science, including logic, algorithms, data representation, and communication.
 - 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.

AIMS

- Provide a relevant, challenging and enjoyable Computing curriculum for all pupils.
- Meet the requirements of the National Curriculum programmes of study for Computing.
- Use computing as a tool to enhance learning across the curriculum.
- To respond to new developments in technology and keep pace with technological advancements.

- To equip pupils with the confidence and capability to use computing skills in later life.
- To develop an understanding of how to use computing safely and responsibly including all elements of e-safety.
- To raise the profile of Computing across the school and to allow wide spread engagement and enjoyment of the subject.

TEACHING / HOW WE MEET OUR AIMS

The aims identified above are principally met in the following ways:-

- Implementation of the National Curriculum objectives through high quality Computing lessons.
- Specific computing skills will be taught independently, e.g. how to format word processing or how to write a formula in Microsoft Excel.
- These skills will then be applied through other subjects, giving learning a purpose, thus making it more meaningful.
- The computer science element of the National Curriculum (coding) will be delivered in stand alone units which will be timetabled across each year group. However, these skills will be used to enhance learning in another curriculum areas, e.g. write code to create a quiz which tests times table knowledge.
- Teachers will plan differentiated lessons that engage all children, identifying children who require more support and those who require more challenge.
- Lesson planning will be supported by a high quality Computing teaching scheme (Wokingham). This will help ensure curriculum coverage and a clear progression in skills from one year group to the next.
- Staff will provide pupils with plentiful opportunities to use their computing skills across other areas.
- Pupils will have regular access to iPads and laptop computers which are maintained to a high standard.
- Efforts will be made to purchase other programmable devices which will further enrich the curriculum across both Key Stages.
- The subject leader -with the help of other teaching staff and the IT technician - will help to ensure that available software is up-to-date and beneficial.
- Staff will be offered CPD when required to improve their confidence in delivering Computing.

ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

- Computing assessment will be based on a teacher assessment judgement at the end of each unit taught.
- At the end of the academic year, each pupil will be allocated a RAG rating (Traffic light) assessment based upon previous teacher assessments. This assessment system is currently used for all foundation subjects across the school.
- Assessments will be stored on a pro-forma and passed to the subject leader.
- These results can then be analysed to find any underlying trends which require further action, they also give a snap shot of attainment in Computing over time.
- The quality of teaching and work produced will be monitored by the subject leader.
- Monitoring will come in the form of work samples, learning walks, data analysis and pupil/staff interviews/questionnaires. Teachers and pupils will be encouraged to showcase pieces of high quality work.
- A secure folder will be created to allow storage of work produced. Over time, a portfolio of high quality work and good practise will be developed which can then be used as a benchmarking tool and for CPD.

REVIEW OF THE POLICY

This policy document and the scheme of work will be reviewed periodically. It will be necessary to take account of changes and recommendations as they arise.

Policy reviewed: Spring 2018

To be reviewed: Spring 2020