William Austin Junior School

Policy for Computing

Vision and Aims

William Austin Junior School believes that computing in the 21st Century has the power to make a significant contribution to teaching and learning across all subjects and ages.

Our goal is to generate pupils who are independent, confident and responsible users of ICT in order to prepare them for life in an increasingly ICT rich world. We aim to integrate computing effectively in the planning, teaching, learning and assessment of all areas of the curriculum. We aim to further develop the potential computing has upon teaching and learning, thus making a significant impact on both our pupils and staff.

This policy sets out the aims and strategies for implementing and developing Computing at our school.

We undertake to:
- provide a broad and balanced structured curriculum which gives the pupils relevant experience and understanding of computing;
- enable all children to enjoy using computing equipment purposefully;
- encourage children to use computing equipment independently;
- foster children's awareness of computing in the wider world;
- build on and develop existing knowledge through skills taught in each year group to maintain continuity and progression.

Teaching and Learning

Each class has use of the Computing room for a one-hour session per week. The Computing Lead Teacher ensures that class planning follows the Computing scheme of work, and the skills progression document, which detail the skills to be taught and that:

- lessons are planned to build on previous achievements and strengthen aspects found to be weak, in order to develop Computing capability and meet the personalised learning needs of all pupils;
- lessons are engaging, pertinent and relevant to the pupils' learning across the curriculum skills taught are relevant in order to build lifelong computing skills.

The four aims of the National Curriculum for Computing are covered across Year 3, 4, 5 and 6. The Computing Manager/Technician maintains a constantly updated hardware and software audit, and along with the Computing Lead Teacher shares new technologies with staff and supports staff with planning and teaching. A wide range of digital equipment and the software available on them are available for use by all children.

Thoughtful planning includes engaging activities, which support learning for pupils with a diverse range of needs and abilities as well as ensuring continuity throughout the school and progression from one year to the next.

Assessment

Pupil progress is assessed as lessons progress. Planning and skills progression documents are used to inform the knowledge and skills to be assessed.

Pupils are involved in peer and self-assessment in each lesson, reviewing their work, modifying it as appropriate and evaluating their work as it progresses.

Roles, Responsibilities and Implementation

In order to become an "e-confident" school where Computing is integrated effectively in the planning, teaching, learning and assessment of all areas of the Curriculum, the Senior Leadership Team, Computing Lead Teacher, and teaching staff work collaboratively in all areas of Computing.

The Senior Management Team will:
- ensure that there is a shared vision for Computing within the school;
- ensure a consistent implementation of the Computing Policy and e-Safety Policy;
- organise INSET training to ensure broad and confident use of computing skills amongst the teaching staff.

The Computing Lead Teacher will:
- monitor the implementation of the Computing Development Plan;
- monitor the implementation and effectiveness of planning, teaching and assessment;
- carry out Computing monitoring, which includes classroom observations, scrutiny of work and planning and discussions with pupils;
- work with subject co-ordinators and staff to encourage the use of Computing as a teaching and learning tool across the Curriculum;
- oversee software and equipment maintenance and liaise with the Computing Manager/Technician;
- co-ordinate the purchase and allocation of Computing resources depending on budget priorities.

Teaching staff will:
- plan and teach using the National Curriculum Programme of Study through use of the medium term plans;
- assess pupil progress and keep annotated records;
- set targets for pupils based upon assessments made;
- report equipment faults to the Computing Manager/Technician;
- undertake any appropriate Computing training provided
- use the school computers to produce resources for pupils and other staff to use and assist with any administration tasks linked to their post;
- use the Smartboard and classroom computer with software, hardware and online resources to further embed Computing across the curriculum;
- plan opportunities for the use of computing technologies in other areas of the curriculum e.g.: iPads, laptops, digital cameras, voice recorders, software, micro:bits and online resources.
- use the digital and interactive technologies and e-learning resources, e.g. iPads, laptops, digital cameras, voice recorders, software, micro:bits and online resources to provide a personalised approach to learning for all pupils.

In addition, subject co-ordinators will:
- produce schemes of work which embed Computing skills across the curriculum through a broad range of online and offline experiences.

Equal Opportunities

We believe that all the pupils of this school should have equal and appropriate access to Computing to develop skills that will allow them to operate effectively and creatively within all curriculum areas.

In the Computing room every child has the opportunity to work independently on their own workstation.

Subject matter, resources and teaching methods are such that every child is given the opportunity to enjoy, participate and contribute at their level in this subject.

All children are shown that, as in every other subject, every child has something of value to contribute.

Computing teaching will meet the guidelines and principles as detailed in the Equality Policy of this school.

Access to Computing and Equal Opportunities

We value equal opportunities for all of our children and believe that all Computing resources should be fully accessible to all learners, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.

We aim to provide a growing range of Computing equipment, available to all pupils, meeting a diverse range of individual needs. This is regularly monitored regardless of age and ability.

Internet Access

The Internet is an essential element in 21st century life for education, business and social interaction. Internet use is a part of the statutory curriculum and a necessary tool for staff and pupils. As such, the school has a duty to provide pupils with quality Internet access as part of their learning experience.

We believe that the use of information and communication technologies in school brings great educational benefits. However, we recognise the e-safety issues and have written a whole school e-Safety Policy to ensure appropriate, effective and safe use of electronic communications.

Managing Resources

The Computing Lead Teacher works with the Computing Manager/Technician and members of the SMT to ensure that there is financial planning for Computing over three years. Hardware is deployed through the school following discussions with staff on a needs basis and new software is acquired as the need arises for it. The purchase of hardware and software may depend on the availability of finances.

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Computing co-ordinator on an annual basis.

Policy updated: January 2024

Staff responsible: Kate Bridgland

This policy was ratified by the Governing Body on:

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body: *M. Kashif*   (signature)

                                                                    M. Kashif - Chair of Governors

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