



Churchfields Primary School 2023 – 2024

Computing Policy

“If you want to create and be a visionary, you’re probably going to be working with technology in some way.”

“The value in learning [about computers] is pretty evident with how important tech is in our world.”

Steph Curry, three-time NBA Champion

Technology has become a part of everyday life for the children, families, and staff at Churchfields Primary School. We understand therefore, that a high-quality computing education is essential for pupils to understand modern information and communication technologies (ICT), for now and the future.

Intent

Our intent, as a school community, is to equip our children with the knowledge, skills and understanding of computing to successfully navigate through an ever-changing digital world.

It is our intention, via Crucial Knowledge, to enable children to find, explore, analyse and present information. We also have an emphasis on developing the skills necessary for children to be able to use the internet in an effective and safe way, understanding the tremendous importance of internet safety.

Computing skills are a major factor in enabling children to be confident, creative and independent learners and it is our intention that children have every opportunity available to allow them to achieve this through these four strands: Computer Safety, Computer Programs, Computer Competency and Computer Resilience.

Implementation

Our computing curriculum is designed to allow children to learn about technology and its uses, develop computing skills, and apply what they have learnt in all areas of the curriculum and daily life. We will equip our pupils with the crucial knowledge needed to be successful, so they can apply this knowledge and develop the skills and understanding of computing they will need for the rest of their lives.

The computing curriculum is comprised of four strands which weave throughout the year groups: Computer Safety, Computer Programs, Computer Competency and Computer Resilience. These strands come together and interlink to teach children: how to stay safe using technology; how to design, build and analyse programs; how to use a computer and technology with ease and confidence; and how to find and manage digital information securely. Children will use these skills to become responsible, competent, resilient, confident and creative participants of an increasingly digital world and have a solid foundation on which to build in the next phase of their education.

With regards to e-safety, we recognise our particular duty to equip all of our pupils, including those whom are more vulnerable - such as children with special educational needs – with the confidence and skills to navigate online environments and to protect themselves online. We also seek to address the 'digital divide' between households by ensuring that all pupils have access not only to an excellent curriculum which encourages digital literacy and critical thinking but also to a range of technology at school to support their learning.

We will ensure that our pupils enjoy and have equal access to technology, regardless of their background or educational need. This includes giving iPads to children in years 4, 5 and 6. Children are also able to use the computer suite consisting of a class set of iMacs. Similarly, all year groups, but particularly year 3 down, can use a class set of iPads when needed.

Crucial Knowledge

Our curriculum overview has been developed with consistency and progression in mind. Through professional discussions, experience and the National Curriculum, the computing leader, Mr Cotton, has conscientiously put together a curriculum which will ensure children leave Churchfields with a deep and competent set of skills and understanding, ready for high school and wider life.

Computer safety (E-Safety) appears twice in every year group – at the start of the autumn term and summer term. This has been decided due to the importance of internet and electronic safety but chiefly with the children at our school in mind. As a school, this is an area we have identified and thus have an emphasis on in both computing and PSHE.

At Churchfields, we also have a big focus on basic skills and using these in popular programs like Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel. We understand the importance of computer science and coding however believe that children will be most benefitted with a high level of competence and confidence in typing and using the aforementioned computer programs.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), children will have ample opportunities to explore, test and experience technology. We accept that children may or may not have a variety of technology at home and so it is our duty to ensure all children have the same opportunities to learn about the importance and infinite possibilities of technology. Children have 'I Can' statements which will be met across the year. These statements will act as a great foundation to then be built on and understanding deepened throughout key stages 1 and 2.

The units throughout key stages 1 and 2 are similar to a spiral curriculum. By that, the themes, units and crucial knowledge are revisited regularly. This can be seen on the curriculum overview with a large proportion of statements becoming recap in another unit or year group. As a school, one of our values is recap and so it holds great importance throughout the computing curriculum. This style of curriculum design reduces the amount of knowledge lost through forgetting, as topics are revisited frequently.

Some of the units of learning have been taken from the respected and valued Teach Computing Curriculum. These have been selected appropriately for specific year groups where they would best fit into the curriculum design. To aid teachers in the planning and learning of those units, the plans can be used and adapted to meet the crucial knowledge as set out in the curriculum overview.

All four of the strands are evidenced throughout the year groups at Churchfields and often interlink or overlap. Through excellent teaching, high-quality lessons and opportunities for new experiences whilst building on prior knowledge, children will leave Churchfields as safe, competent and resilient learners with an aptitude in using many different programs.

