
St. Mary's CE Academy

'Excellence through faith & learning'



Computing Policy

“Rise up, take courage and do it.”

Ezra 10:4

Computing Policy



Introduction

This Computing Policy outlines the vision, aims, and implementation strategies for delivering high-quality computing education at St. Mary's in accordance with the 2014 National Curriculum in England. The policy is designed to ensure that all pupils develop their skills and knowledge in computing to prepare them for the rapidly evolving digital world.

Vision

At St. Mary's we believe that computing is a vital skill that empowers our students to think critically, solve problems, and express their creativity. Our goal is to provide a comprehensive computing curriculum that caters to all learners, fostering a passion for technology and its applications in everyday life.

Aims

The aims of our computing curriculum are to ensure that all students:

- Develop a secure understanding of the principles of computer science.
- Gain proficiency in using technology to create, communicate, and collaborate.
- Understand the importance of online safety and the ethical use of technology.
- Become resilient problem solvers who can design, code, and evaluate algorithms.
- Apply their computational thinking in real-life scenarios.

Curriculum Overview

As outlined in the 2014 National Curriculum for Computing, our curriculum comprises three key areas:

1. Computer Science

- a. Understand and apply the fundamental principles of computer science, including logic, algorithms, and decomposition.
- b. Use programming languages to create and debug algorithms.
- c. Recognise the impact of computer science on individuals, society, and the economy.

2. Information Technology

- a. Use technology to manipulate data and create effective presentations and digital products.
- b. Develop the skills to retrieve, store, and manage information using appropriate software and tools.

- c. Collaborate using technology for shared tasks and projects.

3. Digital Literacy

- a. Understand the importance of being safe and responsible online.
- b. Develop skills to navigate and evaluate online content critically.
- c. Promote effective communication and digital citizenship.

Teaching and Learning Strategies

We employ a range of teaching and learning strategies to ensure inclusivity and engagement in computing lessons. These strategies include:

- Differentiated tasks that cater to various ability levels.
- Collaborative projects that promote teamwork and peer learning.
- Practical lessons that utilise a range of software and hardware.
- Integration of cross-curricular themes that allow application of computing concepts in other subjects.
- Use of assessment for learning to inform teaching and provide feedback to pupils.

Assessment

Formative Assessment

- Regular formative assessments will be conducted to monitor progress and understanding, including formal assessment made by teacher observation.
- Feedback will be given to provide students with clear next steps for improvement.
- Assessment outcomes will be recorded and used to inform future curriculum planning and individual learning paths.

Online Safety

At St. Mary's, we prioritise the safety and well-being of our pupils in their use of technology. We ensure:

- Regular teaching of online safety curriculum tailored to age and understanding.
- Parental engagement through workshops and resources on keeping children safe online.
- Regular updates for staff on best practices and legal responsibilities regarding online safety.

Staff Development

We are committed to providing ongoing professional development for our teaching staff to enhance their computing subject knowledge and pedagogical skills.

Opportunities for training may include:

- In-house workshops on new technologies and teaching methodologies.
- External training courses and partnerships with local computing organisations.
- Peer observations to share best practices and reflect on teaching.

Parental Engagement

We believe that engaging parents and carers in the computing education of their children is essential. We will:

- Provide resources to help parents understand the computing curriculum and how they can support learning at home.
- Encourage parents to share experiences of technology-related projects completed at home.

Review and Effectiveness

The computing policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it meets the needs of pupils and aligns with changes in the National Curriculum and best practices in education. Feedback from staff, pupils, and parents will be solicited to enhance the effectiveness of our computing provision.

Summary of Inspectorate Expectations

According to the most recent framework by Ofsted, outstanding schools must demonstrate:

- Intention to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of all learners.
- Rigorous assessment strategies that track pupil progress and inform future learning.
- Effective safeguarding measures for all aspects of learning, particularly in the online environment.
- High-quality professional development opportunities for staff, promoting best teaching practices.
- Strong partnerships with parents and the wider community.

By adhering to these expectations and following this policy framework, St.Mary's strives to provide an outstanding computing education that prepares our pupils not only for the digital world but also for their future as informed and responsible citizens.