St. Joseph's

Catholic Primary School

Computing Policy

Last Reviewed Date – March 2023

Computing Policy

Our Vision:

Our curriculum is integral to the fulfilment of our school vision:

Our vision is At St. Joseph's is that each individual will **learn, grow and thrive** together with love and faith in Jesus. We will embrace our gospel values and enable all children to **achieve their full potential** in a safe, welcoming and happy learning environment. We will strive to **create responsible citizens** who are **independent, confident, life-long learners** and are equipped to meet the challenges of a changing future **– the people who God calls them to be.**

'We will learn, grow and thrive together with love and faith in Jesus to achieve their full potential….'

St. Joseph's vision for the children, is that they leave St. Joseph's having achieved their full potential in all areas and have the necessary skills and knowledge to flourish to their next phase of education and life. As children learn and grow, we want them experience a deep sense of joy in everyday life and to feel happy, confident and full-filled, having enjoyed an enriching curriculum at St. Joseph's. We want us to approach our curriculum with enthusiasm and a thirst for knowledge. Through a broad, diverse curriculum and for children to develop new interests and passions. Children need a world class education which enables them to grow in wisdom, knowledge and a skills so that they may have a transformational impact upon society. We want children to receive an exceptional curriculum by inspirational, knowledgeable teachers who deliver academic excellence for all. We want our curriculum to enable long-term learning.

'Create Responsible Citizens who are independent, confident, life-long learners who are equipped to meet the challenges of a changing future…'

We want our children to grow up to be responsible citizens and good people. We want them to learn to feel, think and act with respect for themselves and for other people. We want them to feel confident and to develop a strong character whilst providing them with the necessary skills to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

We want our children to leave St. Joseph's with the knowledge, skills and desires to contribute to a fairer and more sustainable world - To help build God's Kingdom. We want them to be successful global learners: As Pope Francis said,

'We are a single family living in a common home. We have a responsibility as stewards of God's earth.'

INTENT:

At St. Joseph's we aim to provide a high-quality Computing education, from EYFS right the way through to Year 6, that prepares our learners for their future by giving them the opportunities to gain knowledge and develop skills that will equip them for an ever changing digital world. With technology playing such a significant role in society today, we believe it is important children develop their computational thinking skills to be able to participate effectively and safely in this digital world. Our curriculum, which begins with children in Early Years exploring the world around them and technology they use on a regular basis, will provide children with key knowledge about how computers and computer systems work, how they are designed and how they are programmed. The Computing curriculum focuses on a progression of skills in digital literacy, computer science, information technology and online safety to ensure that children become competent in safely using, as well as understanding, technology. These strands are revisited repeatedly through a range of themes during children's time in school to ensure the learning is embedded and skills are successfully developed. At St. Joseph's, our intention is that Computing also supports children's creativity and cross curricular learning to engage children and enrich their experiences in school.

Our objectives in the teaching of Computing are:

- to ensure children can understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science (algorithms, logic, data representation, etc.);
- to ensure children can analyse problems with computers and be able to solve these effectively
- to investigate the evaluation and application of information technology, including new or unfamiliar technology
- to explore the value of technology, both to children and to society in general
- to examine issues of security, personal safety, confidentiality and accuracy
- to develop the cross-curricular use of ICT in all subjects

IMPLEMENTATION

We teach computing in reception EYFS through small group inputs and independent access of equipment during continuous provision. In the foundation stage computing skills are covered in the 'Understanding of the World – Technology' strand. Children work towards the Early Learning Goal (ELG) which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. The children have the opportunity to use the computers, IPads, digital cameras and floor robots along with other sources of technology they would find at home and school. During the year, they gain confidence and start using the computer to find out information and to communicate in a variety of ways.

Using the 'Teach Computing' scheme of work as starting points, teachers plan effective, engaging and creative lessons that enable all children to access the Computing curriculum, regardless of age or ability, in a way that supports the learning of individual pupils. Supported by a clear progression of skills and knowledge, teachers can ensure that learning is fully embedded before being built on as the children journey through school.

To ensure a broad range of skills and understanding, Computing is taught across three main strands:

- digital literacy
- computer science
- information technology.

As part of information technology, children learn to use and express themselves whilst developing their ideas through ICT, such as writing and creating multimedia presentations. Within digital literacy, children develop practical skills in the safe use of ICT and the ability to apply these skills to solve relevant and meaningful problems. In computer science we teach children to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation. We also develop the ability to analyse problems to computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs. Throughout each Computing topic, children are provided with a range of computing vocabulary to support children in their understanding.

At St. Joseph's, online safety is taught across school in a manner that is sensitive to the needs and experiences of the children. Online safety procedures are communicated with all staff and parents. Every unit of work includes specific internet safety teaching with resources from Be Internet Legends programme and Childnet.com.

IMPACT:

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we use the Teach Computing Assessment Tracker to determine children's development of skills, understanding and informs teachers planning. This is completed on a termly basis by the class teacher, and is shared with Subject Leaders and SLT. Subject Leaders also carry out regular learning walks, Book Looks, lesson observations and pupil discussions. Book Swaps are a regular feature in our Staff Meeting time. Action Plans are reviewed termly by Subject Leaders and shared annually with Governors.

The broad range of subject-specific knowledge developed in our computing lessons equips pupils with experiences that will benefit them in secondary school, further education, future workplaces and home life. From research methods, use of presentation and creative tools, critical and computational thinking, and being safe online, computing at St. Joseph's, gives children a love of the subject as well as building blocks enabling them to pursue a wide range of interests and vocations in the next stage of their lives.