



St. Brendan's Catholic Primary School

Computing Rationale

At St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, we believe that every child should have the opportunity to use and experience a range of new technologies. We aim to encourage children to become computer literate, enabling them to fulfil their potential in an increasingly computer-dominated world. Learning key computer skills develops essential typing, research, coding and data handling concepts, which will support our children throughout their future. Computing at our school is defined using three strands: computer science, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and digital literacy. To distinguish between these three strands, computer science enables pupils to develop key cognitive skills, ICT provides pupils with vocational skills that are valuable in secondary and higher education and employment, and digital literacy helps keep pupils safe when using technology.

As a school we aim to:

- Provide children with an exciting, high-quality, computing education that produces competent, confident computer users, who are digitally literate by the time they leave the school;
- Ensure that our children have a secure knowledge of online-safety and have the skills to tackle any upsetting or inappropriate content they might access online;
- Deliver a computing curriculum that is in accordance with the National Curriculum (September 2014);
- Use computers to enhance the teaching of the National Curriculum in computing and other lessons;
- Provide pupils with a range of opportunities to use computer software; and
- Ensure computing is used, when appropriate, to improve access to learning for pupils with a diverse range of individual needs, including those with SEN and disabilities.

In weekly computing lessons, as well as during other curriculum sessions, pupils use laptops and I pads to support their learning. To enhance the well-structured and progressive computing curriculum with clear links between year groups, the school makes use of a range of computer programmes: including Microsoft Word/Powerpoint/Excel; J2E data/blog/web; Scratch; and familiar search engines such as Google. The children access cross-curricular learning using IXL for maths, Nesy spellings and Class Dojo to share their learning.

During the computing lesson time, the children will be aware of the success criteria for their lesson using the learning grid displayed at the beginning of the lesson. The grid will also show what vocabulary the children will be expected to use in the lesson. The lesson may begin with a teacher demonstration of the task that the children will be undertaking, it will be shared in small chunks, piece by piece, allowing all children to follow the lesson and be included. The children mostly work in mixed ability pairs so that peer support can be offered. The teacher may use a variety of programmes to show the learning however, most will be based around J2E, an online programme, where the children have their own log in and access, to key programmes such as programming, data handling software, and blogging as well as key Microsoft type applications. The children will be given the opportunity within the lesson to experiment with different tools within the programme they are using, this way they will learn key knowledge and tools that can be used on their own. Exploration during computing lessons is encouraged, as it is more likely that by doing this the child will be more likely to remember it. Those who require support can follow the teacher's step-by-step instruction or watch the short explanation videos on the task. Ambassadors may also offer their support within the lesson by



explaining and sharing any skills that they have with their whole class or those who require additional support. This is done in a 'teacher' style model rather than the ambassador doing it for them. Throughout the lesson, the children will be asked to explain what skills they are using, using key computing vocabulary. At the end of each lesson the children will save their work to their own J2E file, from here it is reviewed and accepted by the teacher to be saved permanently.

Computing can also be used for cross-curricular work. This may be through research (using key skills to establish validity and quality of information) or using various iPad applications. There are two areas within school for the children to experiment with using the Green Screen, this can be linked to many different subject areas as well as involving the children using their computing skills to record and edit their work.

Computing is celebrated in our school by allowing those who have a particular passion for the subject to become computing ambassadors. This role involves the ambassadors assisting the computing lead with the organising of hardware so that it is ready and suitable for use in the classroom. They also access the key programmes used in the computing lessons and learn the key skills needed so that they then become the expert and can support the teaching of computing within their own class. Every year, as a school, we celebrate Safer Internet Day and the ambassadors lead this assembly for the rest of the school. This gives the ambassadors the opportunity to share their knowledge with everyone as well as gaining confidence in discussing their role with the school computing team. The ambassadors also make themselves known to the other children so that they know that should they have any concerns regarding online safety or computing they can talk to an ambassador about it. The ambassadors are aware of the need to report any concerns to the computing lead who will then decide any further action.

Issues surrounding online safety and the need to be a good digital citizen are taken seriously at St Brendan's. Any report of inappropriate behaviour either in or out of school is recorded on an Online Cause For Concern form. Any member of staff who has a concern, or has been told of a concern by a child, completes the form, which is accessible on the Safeguarding Board in the staffroom. The form is then given to the computing lead who will support the teacher in appropriate handling of the issue or who will then report it to the Head Teacher should the issue be deemed a safeguarding risk.

Our overall intent within St Brendan's is to create an environment which allows the children to develop a love of computing and all of the possibilities it can bring, as well as equipping them with the skills they need to be competent users of a variety of devices alongside being a responsible digital citizen.