

East Somerset Federation



Computing Policy

Approved by the Governing Body of
The East Somerset Federation

Signed: *Susan Spise*

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Computing Intent

An excellent computing education enables pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. Computing has strong links with mathematics, science and design and technology, and provides insights into both natural and artificial systems. The core of computing is computer science, where pupils are taught the ideas of information and computation, how systems work and how to put this knowledge to use through programming.

Building on this, pupils are able to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of content. Computing also ensures that pupils become digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

Aims and Objectives

During computing at East Somerset Federation, we aim:

- to use computing where appropriate to ensure pupils are motivated and inspired in all areas of the curriculum
- to develop competence and skills of pupils through computing lessons, and enable them to become independent users of ICT when needed
- to ensure pupils are challenged in their use of computing and are provided with exciting, creative ways in which to share their learning
- to allow pupils to become aware of the impact of ICT within society and the wider community, and the implications it can have
- to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum as fully as possible and enable all children to reach their highest standard of achievements
- to provide all staff with the training and support to ensure that they can use computing to its full potential in all aspects of school life
- to create the atmosphere and levels of resources to encourage all members of the school community to learn ICT
- to enable all children to use computers with purpose and enjoyment to the best of their ability

Teaching and Learning

Teaching staff will ensure that they understand the skills and concepts to be taught, and the role of discussion in developing a critical awareness of the use of ICT. The scheme of work for Computing will provide guidance on the skills and knowledge to be covered by each year group. Teachers will need to plan their work so that these skills are first taught and then practised and developed during work in other subjects to allow cross-curriculum links.

As a federation, we follow 'Teach Computing' as a curriculum resource.

<https://teachcomputing.org/curriculum>

Pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities to learn and use ICT and apply these skills in a meaningful context. With support, they will also evaluate how ICT is used in everyday life and compare this with the way they use it in school through:

- short directed activities to practise a specific skill
- activities with a subject context to practise and develop skills previously learned
- open-ended challenges which allow pupils to choose which tools to use or to select from a variety of media
- whole class directed discussions to allow reflection on the use of ICT
- The nature of ICT as a tool means that there will be many opportunities for links with other subjects. Teachers will plan activities which emphasise the development of computing capability and also activities which support other subjects being taught.

Quality of Provision

Each aspect of the computing curriculum has planning which identifies the activities and skills to be taught, as well as the resources to be used, vocabulary to be developed and the expectations for achievements. All staff teach the units that apply to their year group; this ensures continuity and progression throughout the school in line with the Progression of Skills document. In addition to the discrete teaching of the computing curriculum, cross-curricular application of ICT skills are promoted through subjects across the curriculum.

Online Learning

As a school, we value the importance of providing opportunities for children to learn outside of school and we will provide these depending on the age of the child. On our website, we will provide directions to online platforms and tools that are used within school (Spelling Shed, TT Rockstars, MyOn).

Assessment

Computing will be assessed in a number of ways, using formative and summative assessment. Formative assessment will happen during lessons and will be used to inform planning and this is conducted by the teacher on an informal basis. Computing will be assessed on a termly basis, using the school's assessment framework which relates to the National Curriculum expectations. At the end of each project, children should be encouraged to peer assess and evaluate their own progress and learning through open ended topic linked challenges. Children will be able to store their work on our school's network and these can be used as an evidence base of the progress they are making.

Equal Opportunities

We will ensure that all pupils are provided with opportunities to access the computing curriculum throughout the school. All children are entitled to equal access to all ICT equipment in order to develop their personal computing capability. When children work in groups, care will be taken to ensure that all children are active and have equal access to the computer keyboard or iPad touch screen.

Children with access to technology at home are encouraged to use it for educational benefits. Those children who do not have access at home are given opportunities to use school resources to access online learning sites and apps.

Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Senior Management	Determine the ways ICT should support, enrich and extend the curriculum Decide the provision and allocation of resources Decide ways in which developments can be assessed and records maintained Ensure that ICT is used in a way to achieve the aims and objectives of the school Provide/organise appropriate training for staff
ICT Lead	Ensure the development of an effective computing curriculum Ensure that there is a Computing policy Make colleagues accountable for adequate teaching and assessment of the computing curriculum Support staff with planning and delivering of the computing curriculum Complete audits of computing resources
Curriculum Subject Leads	Plan where ICT can be used within their own subject planning
Class Teachers	Plan appropriate ICT activities Assist the ICT lead in the monitoring and recording of pupils progress in ICT
Technician	Carry out tasks identified in the support log book Make recommendations to ensure provision maintains reliability Ensure systems are kept up-to-date Ensure systems are kept safe by keeping virus checkers up to date and ensuring all systems are effectively backed up

Monitoring and Review

The monitoring of standards of work and the quality of computing teaching is the responsibility of the computing subject leader. The work of the subject leaders is significant in raising standards and this involves supporting colleagues in their teaching, being informed about current developments in their subject, and providing a strategic lead and direction in computing. Where possible, subject leaders have specially allocated time for carrying out the vital tasks of reviewing samples of work and visiting classes to observe teaching.

This policy will be reviewed biennially.