Computing Curriculum

Intent

At Saint Austin's, we are committed to ensuring that we prepare pupils for the ever-changing technological world around them. Not only do we want to ensure pupils become well versed in using a range of different technology and programs but also to develop an intrinsic, explorative approach for computing. Pupils will cover computer science, information technology and digital literacy.

Technology is one of our whole school drivers and we aim to lead that through our computing curriculum. Our computing curriculum allows pupils to work creatively and collaboratively with plenty of challenge. We aim to equip every pupil with the skills to use technology efficiently and in a meaningful way to enrich their learning across all subjects and beyond school.

Through our computing curriculum we want pupils to become discerning users of technology with an understanding of when to use it and how it can benefit our lives. We want to develop pupils who are confident and creative with their computing understanding and open to new ideas or advances. It is important that the curriculum ensures that pupils treat all equipment with respect and use it safely and respectfully, with due regard for their own safety (and mental wellbeing) and that of others. We aim to empower pupils to use technology not only for their own benefit but also to serve and support others in our community and the wider world, reflecting the Gospel Value of service as Jesus taught.

 The aim of our computing curriculum is to help each pupil to develop into a;

- Digital citizen – who is safe and responsible
- Digital creator – who is logical and creative
- Digital communicator – who is digitally literate

Implementation

- Computing is taught throughout KS1 and KS2 as both discreet lessons and as a toolset embedded in other curriculum areas
- We cover all 3 areas of the national curriculum for computing: computer science, digital literacy and information technology

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- Whilst all three strands are covered in each year group, subject knowledge becomes increasingly specific and in depth, with more complex skills being taught, ensuring progression
- In EYFS, where the new framework has very limited computing scope, we embed technology to both enrich their learning and get children ready for KS1
- In year 1, discreet lessons are taught in 1-2 week blocks each term
- In years 2-6, all children have a weekly hour computing lesson with a specialist teacher from MGL
    - MGL scheme of work is used for these lessons and has been adapted for year 1 teachers to follow as well.
- All new topics start with an *unplugged* activity in order to teach the abstract concepts and solidify them, before moving on
- In addition to the discreet, weekly lessons, technology and digital literacy is embedded into other curriculum areas in a range of ways, broadening children's digital literacy
- Online safety is also a key focus in school and the key messages of safer internet day is reiterated throughout the year, both through curriculum and in the wider community in newsletters to parents
- In order to deliver the curriculum, we have 90 iPads available as well as a computer suite with up to 32 desktop computers
- The online platforms which children have access to are Purple Mash and Google Classroom. These are used for both classwork and homework
- Our curriculum is enhanced through extra-curricular clubs which run twice a week for children in years 1-6
- In line with our school's mission to love and serve as Jesus taught, we ensure that all pupils, regardless of their individual needs, have inclusive access to computing resources and support, enabling them to develop their digital skills and participate fully in the digital world

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Impact

At St Austin's, we ascertain the success of our curriculum in a variety of ways:

- Formative assessment throughout teaching with targeted questioning during lessons
- Summative assessment at the end of a unit of with bespoke tasks
- Pupil discussion with subject leader (pupil voice)
- Careful monitoring of planning by subject leader
- Monitoring children's work in online platforms (Purple Mash, Google Classroom and Scratch)
- Photo and video evidence of practical work
- Learning walks conducted by subject leader

Pupils in KS1 and KS2 are assessed at the end of each unit of work and attainment is tracked across the school.

Pupils will leave EYFS with the skillset required to access the KS1 computing curriculum, an understanding of online safety and a healthy curiosity about how & why we use technology.

Having progressed through our curriculum, children leaving KS2 will have developed into pupils who can

- understand and apply the basic concepts of computer science
- use and apply technology effectively in school work and their everyday life
- be responsible, competent, confident and creative in their use of technology

As well as meeting curriculum requirements, our pupils will also be able to apply the British values of democracy, tolerance, mutual respect, rule of law and liberty when communicating online and using digital systems.

By the time pupils leave St. Austin's, they will not only possess a secure understanding of computing concepts but also demonstrate compassion and empathy in their online interactions, using their digital skills to promote kindness, justice, and respect for all, in accordance with our Gospel Values.

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