



Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School and Nursery

Computing Policy

Reviewed September 2019
Next Review September 2021

Computing Lead: Mr Paul Gerrie

Rationale

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is concerned with the storage, processing, presentation and communication of information by electronic means. This includes the measurement, modelling and control of external events. ICT continues to evolve very quickly and has now become firmly entrenched in many aspects of everyday life, both at home and in the workplace.

Within the new National Curriculum, computing replaces ICT by moving away from solely learning how to use technology and towards understanding how computers work. At Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School our aim is for pupils to become digitally literate; using and expressing themselves through information and communication technology by creating and being an active participant in a digital world that is forever changing.

At Sir Alexander Fleming we believe the 3 main strands (Computer Science, Information Technology and Digital Literacy) will:

- Facilitate both individualised and collaborative approaches to learning and provide a safe and non-threatening environment which learning takes place.
- Meet the individual needs and responsibilities of each pupil.
- Improve pupil's motivation, promote perseverance and develop self-esteem.
- Encourage the development of problem solving approaches to learning and present information in new ways that help pupils to understand, assimilate and use it more readily.
- Improve the presentation of work and give the children power to try out different ideas and take risks in their work.
- Compensate for the communication and learning difficulties of children with physical and sensor impairment and support the learning of children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.
- Enable the children to take greater responsibility for their learning and encourage them towards purposeful activities and self-awareness.

- Allow teachers easy access to computers and other tools so that they have opportunities to re-evaluate ways of teaching and learning to encourage and improve the use of IT across the curriculum.

Aims and Objectives

Our principle aim is to produce learners who are independent, confident and effective users of ICT and computing. We strive to achieve this aim by:

- ICT to be presented as a creative and fascinating process in which children are encouraged to use their own initiative, imagination, reasoning and investigative skills;
- Children appreciate the relevance of IT and computing in our society and that they see it as an essential tool for learning, communication, finding information and for controlling and understanding their environment;
- Children receive equal opportunity to develop their computing capability, being planned for in line with its status as a core National Curriculum subject;
- Differentiation is planned for in each area of the computing curriculum so that children achieve to the best of their ability;
- Children learn to work individually and collaboratively;
- Promoting the health and safety of the pupils of this school with regards to using ICT and safe internet access.
- To respond effectively to new developments in technology
- To ensure pupils are equipped with the skills, confidence and capability to use computing throughout their life.
- Providing opportunities to use technology in a variety of curricular areas.

Present resource provision

The school has a wide range of computer hardware including:

- 3 laptop trolleys containing 30 laptops each
- 6 Lenovo computers in the planning room.
- 20 school iPads available for a class (signed out)

Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard and 1/2 networked computers, which are networked to the school's photocopier. All computers in school have internet access and iPads can log on to school's network which is password protected.

Sir Alexander Fleming subscribes yearly to Twinkl and MinecraftEdu. The former provides support and resources to teachers in delivering the curriculum, whilst the latter offers a platform for children to work collaboratively through a range of activities linked to the curriculum.

The school also has access to a range of computing resources to support the teaching of the curriculum:

- Green screen
- Oh Bot Robot
- Dash Robots
- Micro:bits
- Codebugs
- Cubetto

To ensure that copyright laws are adhered to, staff, pupils and parents are only permitted to run software brought in from outside of school when it is clear that the copyright allows this.

Teaching and Learning

At Sir Alexander Fleming, we believe that there are three aspects to the teaching of computing:

1. Computer Science –the core of computing where pupils are taught how digital systems work and how to use this knowledge to program. Pupils learn the principles of computation and information.
2. Information Technology – the application of using their computer science knowledge to create programs, systems and content.
3. Digital Literacy – to use and develop their ideas through IT; use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; and understand computer networks including the internet. This will enable them to become active members of the future workforce.

All of these three strands are of equal importance.

We recognise that all classes have children with widely differing computing abilities. This is especially true when some children have access to equipment at home, while others do not. We provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability and experience of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways, by:

- Setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty (not all children complete all tasks);
- Grouping children in mixed ability groups to encourage peers to support each other;
- Providing resources of different complexity that are matched to the ability of the child;
- Using adult support to support the work of individual children or groups of children.

Within the ICT/Computing timetable every class has two 1-hour sessions available with the laptops and the class teacher signs out any other available slots. All staff members have access to the school iPads (20), which can be signed out for use in the classroom. iPads have enabled ICT and computing to be fully incorporated within all other areas of the curriculum to support and extend learning.

The class teacher will be responsible for the management and delivery of the weekly computing lessons to their own class. The ICT technician is available to support lessons on their day in school. The Computing Co-ordinator will offer support and INSET training to ensure staff are confident to use the hardware and software available and also to ensure that they understand the learning objectives and concepts being taught.

Assessment and record keeping

Teachers regularly assess capability through observations and assessment of completed work. Assessing ICT and computing work is an integral part of teaching and learning, and is central to good practice. It is part of the learning process and essential that pupils are closely involved. Assessment is generally in the form of formative assessments, which are carried out during the and following short, focused tasks and activities. They provide pupils and teaching staff the opportunity to reflect on their learning in the context of the agreed success criteria. This feeds into planning for the next lesson or activity. All computing work can be saved on the school network in an accessible and identifiable location. Class teachers must record assessment against the objective(s) on the relevant spreadsheet.

Monitoring and evaluation

The subject leader is responsible for monitoring the standard of the children's work and quality of teaching. The subject leader is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of computing, for being informed about current developments in the subject, and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

Entitlement to the Computing Curriculum

All children should have access to the use of ICT regardless of gender, race, cultural background or physical or sensory disability. Where use of a school computer proves difficult for a child because of a disability, the school will endeavour to provide specialist equipment and software to enable access. Children with learning difficulties can also be given greater access to the whole curriculum through the use of ICT. Their motivation can be heightened and they are able to improve the accuracy and presentation of their work. This in turn can raise self-esteem.

Planning for ICT/Computing in the early years needs to be considered carefully if children are to begin to gain confidence in the use of computing as soon as they start attending Nursery. A range of appropriate hardware, software and activities needs to be offered. This should include plenty of hands on experience and role-play such as using interactive software programmes/apps as well as relevant hardware such as Cubetto.

Quite often there are huge differences in ability between children who have access to home computers and those who do not. Differentiation may include provision of different software, varying the amount/type of support given, varying the tasks, varying the groupings etc.

Health and Safety

Children should not be responsible for moving heavy equipment around the school. Children should be encouraged to load software but should not be given the responsibility of plugging in any electrical equipment. Children should not switch on machines without a member of staff being present.

Food and drink should not be consumed near to any electrical device.

It is the responsibility of staff to ensure that computing equipment is stored securely, cleaned regularly and that their class or themselves leave any equipment clean and tidy after use.

Staff should ensure that the children are seated at the computers comfortably and be aware of the dangers of continuous use (e.g. eye/wrist strain etc).

Safe use of ICT

An adult should always supervise children when they are accessing information via the Internet. The service provider does filter information but staff are ultimately responsible for information accessed by pupils. If staff or children do inadvertently visit inappropriate sites please see advice from T&W ICT team and inform a member of the Senior Management Team.

The school uses Senso as a classroom management tool where teachers can control content on children's computers and monitor their screens.

iPads have restricted access to the Internet via McGruff Google. Access to SAFARI is filtered yet strict adult supervision is recommended. iPads are also set to restrictions that limit adult content.

Always keep passwords secure and limited to those on a "need to know" basis. Remember that if you leave a computer running and leave the room it can be tampered with and leave you open to exploitation. Wherever possible, good practice would be to lock the computer by pressing CIt-Alt-Del and enter or more appropriately, hold down the windows key and press L.

All staff should be aware of the list of children who are not to appear in photographs or on the website (List held in School Office). Images of children can be stored centrally on the workgroup for assessment purposes.

In addition to the day-to-day protection given to pupils about being safe online, the whole school will participate in Safer Internet Day. Parents will have the opportunity to attend an open session to find out the latest information regarding how important it is to learn, play and socialise safely.

The school runs an E-Safety group called E-Cadets. These are students chosen from YR 2-6 who are empowered to deliver E-safety messages, activities and assemblies to their peers. They work closely alongside the ICT coordinator, completing tasks set on the E-Cadets website.

Links to the school development plan

- The Computing Coordinator produces an action plan each year outlining priorities for that year.
- An audit of resources is undertaken yearly to ensure that hardware and software are kept as up to date as possible and that obsolete or broken machines are scrapped or repaired.

Staff training needs will be met by:

- Informing staff of relevant courses that will improve their skill base. These are emailed or hard copies distributed.
- The Computing Co-ordinator should attend courses and support and train staff as far as possible.
- Close liaison with ICT Gold technician

Review and evaluation procedures

The everyday use of ICT is developing rapidly, with new technology being produced all the time. This policy therefore will be reviewed and revised on a yearly basis. The ICT Co-ordinator will liaise regularly with staff, both at staff meetings and informally, to monitor the effectiveness of the policy and the transition to the new curriculum. Meetings with subject co-ordinators will also ensure that the use of ICT across the curriculum is planned for and evaluated.

Paul Gerrie
Computing Co-ordinator 2019