



Bracken Hill School

Computing Policy

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Policy Type: Whole School

This policy is reviewed biennially to ensure compliance with current regulations

The Governors of the school recognise that all staff play a vital role in the achievement of high standards and in providing our pupils with the best opportunities matched to their needs.

RATIONALE

Computing is an integral part of the national curriculum and is a key skill for everyday life. Although computing is not a core subject in the National Curriculum, it is studied by all pupils at Bracken Hill school. Not only is it important to keep children up to date with the rapid changes in the technological world, the skills learnt within computing lessons can be utilised throughout all other subjects to enhance and enrich the National Curriculum. The use of technology can make learning more rewarding and motivating, it allows teaching to become more creative and effective, by providing new and exciting learning experiences for our children. The use of technology also allows us to meet the individual needs of our children, by supporting them in accessing all areas of the curriculum.

The range of abilities within the school is varied therefore lesson content, teaching styles and learning aids are adapted in order to accommodate different learning styles and rates of progress. Computing is a vital aspect of the curriculum for all pupils within the 21st century, we believe that it is our responsibility to prepare our children for technology in the modern world as it is rapidly becoming an essential life skill.

INTENT

Computing at Bracken Hill School will provide opportunities for students to develop their use of a range of computer programs and equipment so that they can use technology independently to access the world around them in a safe and appropriate manner and provide them with the skills needed for future employment.

Computing at Bracken Hill School will do this by:

- Inspiring pupils to extend their learning through the use of technology and believe in themselves and their ability.
- Create an enjoyable learning atmosphere that is fully inclusive for all pupils.
- Develop an “I can” attitude towards technology that encourages all pupils to achieve to their full potential.
- Encourage all pupils to become independent when using technology and take responsibility for their own learning.
- Equip pupils with the confidence and capability to use technology that will be essential in their journey to adulthood and future employment.
- provide all pupils with a broad, relevant, accessible and engaging Computing curriculum regardless of their ethnic origin, age, gender or additional needs.
- Ensure the safety and well-being of our children at all times, by embedding an ethos of E-safety within school, in a way that is appropriate to the needs of our children (please see our Online Safety policy).
- Support all staff in making an effective use of technology at a professional level in order to maximise pupil progress.

IMPLEMENTATION

Computing skills are taught both discretely and cross-curricularly, supporting other areas of learning across the school. Pupils are taught to use equipment and software confidently and purposefully, to communicate and handle information and to support their problem solving, recording and expressive skills. Pupils are taught what algorithms are and how to create and debug programmes. They are taught how to use the internet and technology safely, respectfully and responsibly as well as how to recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. All pupils are taught about E-Safety, this is implemented and embodied into all subjects and is a continuous discussion throughout all key stages. All key stages have 1 lesson of computing per week as well as the opportunity to use technology across the curriculum.

ASSESSMENT

In school, we assess computing by watching how children use technology in a calm and supportive way. We look at how they follow simple steps, use basic programs, stay safe online, and try out new ideas. Teachers gather evidence through photos, short tasks, and talking with the children about what they are doing. We focus on the individual child's progress, praising small steps and giving extra help when needed, so that every learner can succeed and feel confident using technology.

The computing lead, assess computing across the school by checking curriculum coverage, observing teaching, reviewing pupils' work, and gathering pupil and teacher voice. As a school we monitor online safety, and ensure resources are effective and accessible. Together, these give a whole-school picture of progress and help support staff and improve computing provision.

RESOURCES

At all Key Stages pupils have access to laptops that are transported to individual classrooms when required. The school has a network system that allows all areas of the school to use the advanced printing facilities situated around school and also to access the internet. Each class has a teacher laptop, smart board/interactive whiteboard and an iPad to support the delivery of all lessons, planning and communication.

As a school we invest into a wide range of software, apps and websites to enhance the delivery of the curriculum across all subjects. We have a set of Beebots that can be used by all key stages along with a collection of digital cameras.

An inventory is kept of all resources and there is a whole school policy on internet use and E-Safety. (These can be found in the Resources and Policy section of the subject file folder).

We have IT technicians within the trust who support the school. The ICT technicians from the trust work closely with the school and are responsible for the maintenance of equipment as well as the school's network. They collaborate with the computing coordinator and other staff to ensure the computing curriculum can be delivered to

a high standard and effectively adapted to meet the needs of all pupils, including through the use of specialist equipment where required.

The ICT technicians also work alongside ATOM, an external provider, to ensure the safety of all staff and pupils when using technology within the school.

SAFETY

Electrical safety checks are made of all equipment annually by an outside provider. Pupils should not carry laptops around school and staff should use a laptop trolley when transporting more than 1 laptop. Staff are also responsible for plugging laptops into the trolleys to prevent breakage.

E-SAFETY

All class groups and pathways cover e-safety topics throughout the year both within Computing, our PSHE curriculum and whole school events including assemblies and displays. This provides students with a core understanding of steps they can take to stay safe online and how they can report any concerns.

We use 360 degree safe as a tool to review and improve online safety and this is reviewed annually.

Staff received annual training to develop their knowledge of online safety so that they can support and safeguard our students as they navigate the online world.

Students are supervised whenever using ICT in school and we have a range of filtering and monitoring systems to keep students safe in school which is overseen by our IT Technicians.

Please see our Online Safety Policy for further information.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Computing Coordinator will:

- Liaise regularly with staff, both at staff meetings and informally, to monitor the effectiveness of the policy and the Computing Curriculum.
- Attend professional development courses, keeping up to date with important information and then reporting this back to staff.
- Support staff in their own professional development within Computing, where appropriate.
- Organise additional training from external agencies, as and when appropriate.
- Monitor teaching and learning standards in Computing when appropriate, with the support of the Senior Leadership Team.

BLENDED LEARNING

In the event of the need for offsite learning, Bracken Hill has the capacity to offer immediate remote education. The curriculum is carefully sequenced which facilitates the provision of high-quality online and offline resources. We have a range of online platforms to support children to continue with their blended learning, these include Purple Mash, Education city, Seesaw, Microsoft Teams and many more.

IMPACT

It is our hope that pupils will leave Bracken Hill School having acquired the maximum skills possible. We aim to enable them to continue to access the world safely through ICT, in order to continue learning, access employment opportunities and to enhance their leisure time.

EVALUATION

This policy will be review biennially – June 2027