Computing Policy

Let it be known to all who enter here that
Christ is the reason for this school,
the unseen but ever present teacher in its classes,
the model for its children, the inspiration for its staff.

1 Aims

1.1 Computing prepares children for the future. The use of information and communication technology is an integral part of the national curriculum and is a key skill for everyday life. Computers, tablets, programmable robots, digital and video cameras are a few of the tools that can be used to acquire, organise, store, manipulate, interpret, communicate and represent information. We recognise that pupils are entitled to quality hardware and software and a structured and progressive approach to the learning of the skills needed to enable them to use it effectively, this includes the use and understanding of AI.

1.2 The aims of teaching Computing are:

- to learn about issues of security and personal safety, confidentiality and accuracy.
- to use computing with purpose and enjoyment.
- to develop computing capability in finding, selecting and using information online.
- to use computing for effective and appropriate communication; for example, word processing, emailing and presentations.
- to understand and apply principles of computer science, including logic, algorithms and data representation.
- to become autonomous users of technology
- to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum, helping children to achieve the highest possible standards of achievements.
- to develop computing skills across all curriculum subjects.

2 Teaching and learning style

2.1 At Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School we use a variety of teaching and learning approaches to develop children's knowledge, skills and understanding. We do this through weekly lessons in which children experience a range of activities based on the National Curriculum and Teach Computing scheme. They have the opportunity to use a wide range of resources and programs.

3 Computing curriculum planning

3.1 Computing is a core subject in the National Curriculum. We use the Primary National Framework as the basis for implementing the statutory requirements of the programme of study for Computing, as well as the Teach Computing scheme to deliver the National Curriculum to our children.

3.2 Class teachers follow a long term plan for the teaching of Computing and teach a variety of skills throughout the year. Class teachers continuously promote internet safety and remind pupils of safety rules. Each year group participate in

internet safety day, a national initiative held annually in the Spring term to promote the safe, responsible and positive use of digital technology.

4 Foundation Stage

4.1 It is important in the foundation stage to give children a broad, play-based experience of computing in a range of contexts, including outdoor play. Computing is not just about computers. Early Years learning environments should feature computing scenarios based on experiences in the real world, such as role play. Children gain confidence, control and language skills through opportunities to explore using non computer based resources such as walkie-talkie sets. Recording devices can also support children to develop their communication skills. This is particularly useful for children who have English as an additional language.

5 Contribution of Computing to teaching in other curriculum areas

5.1 The skills that children develop in Computing are linked to, and applied in, other areas of our curriculum. The children use these skills to express themselves and share their ideas in a creative way.

6 Computing and inclusion

6.1 We ensure that all children are provided with the same learning opportunities. For children with special educational needs, computing can provide a means of reinforcing concepts and knowledge. Appropriate software and hardware is provided as recommended in a child's Educational Health Care Plan. At our school we teach computing to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Computing forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our Computing teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

7 Assessment for learning

7.1 Teachers assess children's work in Computing by making assessments as they observe them during lessons and end of unit assessment.

8 Resources

8.1 There is a range of resources to support the teaching of Computing across the school. All classrooms have access to smartboards which are connected to a computer to enable the use of technology across the curriculum. Laptops are provided for children to use in class with special educational needs if they will assist with their learning. Classes can use the computing suite which has 30 desktop pcs and can also book out a set of 30 laptops or iPads to use in other areas of the school. We aim to update and purchase equipment whenever necessary to support the changing demands of computing across the curriculum

9 Monitoring and review

9.1 The Computing team is responsible for monitoring the standard of the children's work and the quality of teaching. The team 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. The governors will ensure this policy is reviewed.

9.2 This policy will be reviewed at least every two years.