Tow Law Millennium Primary School Computing Policy

Aims and objectives

Computing is changing the lives of everyone. Our intent through teaching computing is that we equip children to participate in a rapidly-changing world where work and leisure activities are increasingly transformed by technology. We enable them to find, explore, analyse, exchange and present information. We place significant importance on teaching the children how to be safe users of technology and how to reduce the risks of cyber bullying. Computing skills are a major factor in enabling children to be confident, creative and independent learners.

The aims of computing are to enable children:
- to develop IT capability in finding, selecting and using information;
- to use IT for effective and appropriate communication;
- to monitor and control events both real and imaginary;
- to apply hardware and software to creative and appropriate uses of information;
- to apply their IT skills and knowledge to their learning in other areas;
- to use their IT skills to develop their language and communication skills;
- to explore their attitudes towards IT and its value to them and society in general. For example, to learn about issues of security, confidentiality and accuracy.

Teaching and Learning Style

As the aims of computing are to equip children with the skills necessary to use technology to become independent learners, the teaching style that we adopt is as active and practical as possible. While at times we do give children direct instruction on how to use hardware or software, the main emphasis of our teaching in computing is for individuals or groups of children to use computers to help them in whatever they are trying to study. For example, children might:

- research the current topic or a particular issue on the Internet.
- use the computer to model a problem or to analyse data.
- explore ways in which the use of IT can improve their results, for example, how a piece of writing can be edited or how the presentation of a piece of work can be improved by moving text about etc.
- to create simple programs (algorithms) and be able to solve problems that arise.

We recognise that all classes have children with widely differing computing abilities. This is especially true when some children have access to Ccmputing 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 by ability in the room and setting different tasks for each ability group;
- providing resources of different complexity that are matched to the ability of the child;
- using classroom assistants, where available, to support the work of individual children or groups of children.

Computing Curriculum Planning

The school implements the curriculum through initially using the National curriculum 2014 as the basis for its curriculum planning and we have implemented units of Teach Computing plus online safety units through Project Evolve. These programmes of study have been adapted to the local circumstances of the school. From this we have created a long-term plan to support the progression of skills.

We carry out the curriculum planning in Computing in two phases (long-term and medium term). The long-term plan maps the IT topics and activities/tasks within the main areas of Computing, Digital Literacy and IT. Computing and Digital Literacy skills tend to be taught discretely while IT is taught discretely and then at times implemented through other subjects. The children often utilise their computing skills as part of their work in other subject areas but we feel due to our setting that is important to initially teach the skills through our discrete Computing lessons. Our long-term Computing plan shows how teaching units are distributed across the year groups, and how these fit together to ensure progression within the curriculum plan. Following this, the medium-term lesson sequences show how these areas are developed in more detail.

The topics studied in Computing are planned to build upon prior learning. While we offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, we also build planned progression into the scheme of work, so that the children are increasingly challenged as they move up through the school.

Online safety

We take Online safety seriously at Tow Law Millennium Primary school and have procedures in place to support pupils. As part of this, we discuss Online safety throughout the year with the pupils (at an age-appropriate level). At least one Online Safety lesson is part of each half term's unit of work. Please see the Online safety policy for more information – this includes the child and staff acceptable use policies.

Foundation Stage

We teach IT/ computing in the Early Years and Foundation Stage Unit as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year following the EYFS Curriculum. We relate the IT aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) and the Early Learning Outcomes in the specific area, Understanding the World, which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. The children have the opportunity to use IT such as Interactive Whiteboards, laptops, iPads and technological toys. Then as they progress, they gain confidence and start using the computer to find information and use it to communicate in a variety of ways. They also develop an understanding of IT in the home.

Teaching Computing to Children with Extra Needs

At Tow Law Millennium Primary School, we teach Computing to all children, whatever their ability. Computing forms part of our school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all children. We provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. In some instances, the use of IT has a considerable impact on the quality of work that children produce; it increases their confidence and motivation. When planning work in

Computing, we take into account the outcomes in the pupils' Support Plans and EHCPs.

In accordance with our school ethos, we support the development of the whole child whilst valuing and celebrating all the special abilities displayed by children. We believe that some pupils may have exceptional special abilities and talents and monitoring these is our responsibility. The more able pupil has particular needs because they demonstrate an exceptionally higher level of ability when compared to pupils of the same age in one or more curriculum areas.

Assessment and Recording

Teachers assess pupils' work in Computing by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher makes comments as necessary within their planning and at the end of each unit a judgement is made on our Computing tracker.

Resources

Our school has a computer and an interactive whiteboard available in every classroom. In addition, the school has a set of mobile laptops for each class in KS1 and each pupil in KS2 has their own chromebook for use in school. We also have iPads across school. EYFS children have access to laptop computers within the area. In addition to this they have a range of IT within the EYFS area, including their own iPad. The school has internet access for all computers through a wireless network. In addition, children can access and make use of IT at the local Community Centre.

Monitoring and Review

The monitoring of the standards of the pupils' work and of the quality of teaching in Computing is the responsibility of the Computing subject leader. The Computing subject leader is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of Computing, for keeping informed about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

The Computing policy is linked to the following mandatory school policies: Online safety, Home-school agreements, Behaviour, Health and Safety, Safeguarding policies including Anti-bullying.

If you require this information summarised in another language or format please contact the school office on:
01388 730283

Signed: N Mawson

Date: Spring 2026

Date to be reviewed: Spring 2028