Computing Policy

Aims and Objectives:

The use of computers and computer systems is an integral part of the National Curriculum and knowing how they work is a key life skill. In an increasingly digital world there now exists a wealth of software, tools and technologies that can be used to communicate, collaborate, express ideas and create digital content. At Appleton Primary School, we recognise that pupils are entitled to a broad and balanced Computing education with a structured, progressive, approach to the learning how computer systems work, the use of IT and the skills necessary to become digitally literate and participate fully in the modern world.

Through the objectives set out by the Constellation Trust and based upon the framework of the National Curriculum 2014 and the EYFS framework, Computing aims to:

- Provide a broad, balanced, challenging and enjoyable curriculum for all pupils.
- Develop pupil's computational thinking skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.
- Meet the requirements of the National Curriculum programmes of study for computing at Key Stage 1 and 2 and the EYFS framework
- Respond to new developments in technology wherever possible.
- Equip pupils with the confidence and skills to use digital tools and technologies throughout their lives.
- Enhance and enrich learning in other areas of the curriculum using IT and computing.
- Develop the understanding of how to use computers and digital tools safely and responsibly.

The Philosophy and Ethos:

The school believes that IT, computer science and digital literacy are essential life skills necessary to fully participate in the modern digital world and that our Computing curriculum should enable our children to become creators of digital content rather than simply consumers of it. Through the objectives set out by the Constellation Trust and based upon the framework of the National Curriculum 2014 and the EYFS framework, we strive to give our children access to a rich and varied source of information and content. Teaching and learning should allow our children to communicate and present information in new ways, which also helps pupils to understand, access and use it more readily.
Our curriculum motivates and enthuses pupils and offers opportunities for communication and collaboration through group working both inside and outside of school. It also has the flexibility to meet the individual needs and abilities of each pupil.

Inclusion:

At Appleton Primary School we are committed to providing all children with an equal entitlement to activities and opportunities regardless of race, creed, gender or disability and to include each and everybody in society's economical and cultural activities.

In school we aim to meet the needs of all our children by differentiation in our Computing planning and in providing a variety of approaches and tasks appropriate to ability levels. This will enable children with learning and/or physical difficulties to take an active part in digital learning and practical activities and to achieve the goals they have been set. Some children will require closer supervision and more adult support to allow them to progress whilst more able children will be extended through differentiated activities. By being given enhancing and enriching activities, more able children will be able to progress with their knowledge and understanding at an appropriate rate.

Planning:

- Computing in the Early Years Foundation Stage is planned through the Early Years Curriculum and aims to give children a broad, play-based experience of IT and Computing in a range of contexts, including off-computer activities and outdoor play.
- Computing is not just about computers and in the Early Years learning environments plan Computing activities based on experience in the real world, such as in role play. This enables children to gain confidence, control and language skills through opportunities such as 'programming' each other using directional language to find toys/objects, creating artwork using digital drawing tools and controlling programmable toys.
- Outdoor exploration is an important aspect and using digital recording devices such as video, cameras and microphones will support children in developing communication skills.
- Key Stage 1 and 2 teachers plan Computing lessons using the new National Curriculum (2014) and the TeachComputing scheme.

- The long term plan details the specific areas of learning covered in each year group over the year based on key concepts.

Cross-curricular links:

At Appleton Primary School, we believe Computing skills should be developed through core and foundation subjects. Where appropriate, Computing should be incorporated into schemes of work for all subjects. Computing should be used to support learning in other subjects as well as developing computing knowledge, skills and understanding. Our school provides pupils with opportunities to enrich and deepen learning using cross-curricular approaches.

Assessment:

Assessment is essential. Assessment for learning is continuous throughout the planning, teaching and learning cycle using a variety of methods:-

- Observing children at work, individually, in pairs, in a group, and in classes.
- Questioning, talking and listening to children
- Considering work produced by children together with discussion about this with them.

Children's progress is continually monitored and tracked throughout their time at Appleton Primary School using the objectives set out by the Constellation Trust and then recorded using the Integris online tool. Progress is then analysed at regular intervals and at the end of each school year.

Health and Safety:

The school is aware of the health and safety issues involved in children's use of IT and computing. Please refer to our E-Safety policy.

Parental involvement:

Parents are encouraged to support the implementation of Computing where possible by encouraging use of Computing skills at home for pleasure, through home-learning tasks (where appropriate) and use of the school website. Parents will be made aware of issues surrounding e-safety and encouraged to promote this at home.

The Role of the Computing lead:

The Computing lead works as part of the STEM curriculum team; in relationship with the Inclusion lead and with the school's network providers RM. The designated lead is available at all times to advise on teaching strategies, planning, resources and assessment issues. In addition, the allocated Computing lead will ensure consistent approaches throughout the school and collaboration between year groups and key stages where possible. Regular monitoring of teaching and learning throughout the school will be carried out by the Computing lead.

With support from the school's website provider when appropriate, the Computing lead will also take responsibility for the regular updating of the school's website and along with SLT, the school's social media accounts.

INSET will be provided by the Computing lead as and when appropriate. Liaison will be maintained with other schools particularly those within the Constellation Trust and with other outside agencies to ensure that current views and practices are always available to pupils, staff and parents.

Jan Sissons – Jan 2023
Review – Jan 2025