# Trinity St Mary's Church of England Primary School

## Computing Policy

## Spring Term 2024

***"Many Hearts Make A School"***

We work together to teach and inspire our children so that they have the confidence to flourish in our community and in the world.
Like the wise man who built his house upon the rock (Matthew 7:24-25), we embrace our Christian values to build strong foundations for their future.

## The significance of computing

A high-quality computing education equips pupils to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. Computing has deep links with mathematics, science, and design and technology, and provides insights into both natural and artificial systems. The core of computing is computer science, in which pupils are taught the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. Building on this knowledge and understanding, pupils are equipped to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of content. Computing also ensures that pupils become digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

## Aims of Computing

At Trinity St. Mary's our aims are to ensure that all pupils:

- Can understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation
- Can analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience writing computer programs in order to solve such problems
- Can evaluate and apply information technology, including new or unfamiliar technologies, analytically to solve problems
- Are responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology

## Curriculum organization

There are laptops linked to the school network with appropriate software for all children around school to use. In addition to this, there is a variety of other ICT equipment in school including Beebots, CD players, visualizers, IWBs, recording equipment including digital cameras and iPads. There are also laptops available to identified vulnerable children to support with specific targets in other curricula areas. We use technology loans offered by Eduthing to enhance our computing curriculum.

An internet policy has been developed in order to allow the safe and efficient use of the internet for both staff and pupils in an educational context. Where appropriate the school will use a structured scheme of work e.g. Purple Mash but will also use a wider range of free resources e.g. Scratch, Hour of Code.

In computing, as with all subjects, in order to develop the continuity and progression of teaching and learning, a balance between whole class, individual and group work, and direct teaching, pupil investigation and skills practice should be planned throughout the school.

The school also has access to an ICT technician for one morning per week. The technician oversees the management and maintenance of hardware and the network, as well as offering advice and support.

## Entitlement to the computing curriculum

All children should have access to the use of computing technologies 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 endeavor 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 these technologies. 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 computing in the early years needs to be considered carefully if children are to begin to gain confidence in the use of a variety of technologies as soon as they start attending nursery. A range of appropriate hardware, software and activities needs to be offered.

## Record keeping and assessment

Children's progress is measured against descriptions in the National Curriculum and summative assessments are made at the end of every term. These assessments highlight children who are working above and below the expected level.

## Health and Safety

- Children should not be responsible for moving heavy equipment around the school. They may load software but should not be given the responsibility of plugging in and switching machines on without a member of staff present
- **Food and drink should not be consumed near Computing equipment**
- It is the responsibility of staff to ensure that classroom computing equipment is stored securely.
- 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)
- An adult should always supervise children when they are accessing information via the internet. The service provider does filter information but staff are advised to take great care on the content accessed by children and are ultimately responsible for information accessed by pupils.

## Staff training

Needs will be met by:

- Auditing staff skills and confidence in the use of information technologies regularly
- Keeping up to date with best practice and developments in technology
- Arranging training for individuals as required
- Annual e-safety training must be arranged and completed by all staff working with children
- All staff must be aware of and abide by professional conduct and safer working practices regarding technologies such as 'Twitter', 'Facebook', Instagram etc.

**Review and evaluation procedures**
The everyday use of communication technology is developing rapidly, with new technology being produced all the time. This policy therefore will be reviewed and revised on a bi-annual basis.

**REVIEW**
This policy was agreed by the governing body in Spring Term 2024 and reviewed in Spring Term 2026

Signed on behalf of the governing body:

Date:

It will be reviewed in Spring Term 2026