THOMAS GRAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy

Our Vision

Our intention is that computing will enable us to make a significant contribution to raising standards in the use of technology. We intend that all students, staff and members of the local community will be able to benefit from the use of technology through the development of personal skills and access to high-quality learning resources and opportunities. We intend that technology will support teaching and learning and help to create a rich and stimulating learning environment, enabling users to access and create resources and to communicate effectively with others. We expect that technology will be used as a means towards the development of independent learning and research skills, creative thinking and problem solving, as well as enabling the school to be managed more effectively.

1   Aims and objectives

1.1   Computing in the 21st Century is ever changing within society as a whole. It is our aim through teaching computing to equip children to participate in this 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 also focus on developing the skills necessary for all children to be able to use information in a discriminating and effective way. Computing skills are a major factor in enabling children to be confident, creative and independent learners. The internet is a powerful tool and we aim to equip children with the skills to use it appropriately and safely.

1.2   The aims of computing are to enable all children:
- To become autonomous, independent users of technology, gaining confidence and enjoyment from their computing activities
- To develop a whole school approach to computing, ensuring continuity and progression in all strands of the computing National Curriculum
- To use technology as a tool to support teaching, learning and management across the curriculum
- To provide children with opportunities to develop their capabilities in all areas in line with the statutory curriculum for computing.
- To ensure technology is used, when appropriate, to improve access to learning for pupils with a diverse range of individual needs, including those with SEN and disabilities
- To maximise the use of technology in developing and maintaining links between other schools, the local community including parents and other agencies.

2   Teaching and learning style

2.1   As the aims of computing are to equip all 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.

Monitoring

Monitoring computing will enable the coordinator to gain an overview of teaching and learning throughout the school. This will assist the school in the self-evaluation process, identifying areas of strength as well as those for development

In monitoring of the quality of ICT teaching and learning the ICT coordinator will:

- scrutinise plans to ensure full coverage of the ICT curriculum requirements;
- analyse children's work;
- observe computing teaching and learning in the classroom;
- hold discussions with teachers;
- analyse assessment data.

4 ICT curriculum planning

4.1 The school uses Wessex Computing planning, which is a scheme promoting creativity and progression and has been developed alongside the computing Program of Study and covers the statutory curriculum requirements for computing. Each unit focuses on delivering computing through a flexible context, whilst providing links to other areas of the curriculum.

The skills taught and developed in each unit of work 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.

5 Foundation Stage

5.1 We teach computing in the Foundation Stage through Wessex computing planning and as an integral part of the continuous provision available. We relate the computing aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Years outcomes which underpin the curriculum planning for children from birth to five. The children have the opportunity to use the computers, iPads and technological and programmable toys. They use the computer and iPads to find information and use it to communicate in a variety of ways.

6 Health and Safety

Internet Safety

Internet Content

The school Internet access will be designed expressly for pupil use and will include filtering provided by the Education Authority or a third party and will be appropriate to the age of pupils. The school will work in partnership with parents, the LA or third party provider, DfES and the Internet Service Provider to ensure systems to protect pupils are reviewed and improved. Pupils will be taught what is acceptable and what is not acceptable and given clear objectives regarding Internet use. Staff guide pupils in online activities that will support the learning outcomes planned for the pupils' age and maturity. Pupils will be educated in the effective use of the Internet in research, including the skills of knowledge location and retrieval.

The school will where possible ensure that the use of Internet derived materials by staff and by pupils complies with copyright law. Pupils should be taught to be critically aware of the materials they read and shown how to validate information before accepting its accuracy.

Safeguards
If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites the URL (address) and content must be reported to the teacher who will ensure the site is blocked.

10.2 Along with the computers, the school has the following:

Hardware

- colour printers
- digital cameras
- video recorders
- electronic keyboards
- calculators
- robots
- control interface with buzzers etc.
- programmable toys
- digital microscopes

Software includes

- a word processing package
- painting/drawing software
- clip art
- a music composition package
- a multimedia programme
- spreadsheets/database programmes
- control programme
- simulations

11   Monitoring and review

11.1 The monitoring of the standards of the children's 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 subject leader gives the Head Teacher regular evaluations of strengths and weaknesses in the subject areas.

There is an annual review of this policy by the ICT coordinator.
A major review involving all staff and governors will take place every three years.

Approved by staff: November 2017

Signed: _A.P. Taylor_   Date: _5|12|17_
Chair of Governors

Signed: _____   Date: _05/12/17_
Headteacher

Date to be reviewed: _November 2018_