Alton Infant School
Sowing the seeds of learning

The intention, implementation and impact of Computing at Alton Infant School.

Aims and Intention

At Alton Infant School we believe that all children need to have very good computing skills in order to enhance their personal lives, education and future careers. We aim to give pupils high quality, enjoyable and memorable learning experiences through access to a range of digital and electronic hardware and software.

We recognise that the world of computing is fast changing. Therefore, computing education needs to progress appropriately so that children can move forward with the skills and knowledge necessary to be active participants in the digital world of today and in the future.

At Alton Infant School we aim for pupils to have a foundational understanding of computing to include digital design, algorithms, simple programs, logical reasoning and prediction. We also aim for pupils to recognise how technology is used across the wider world and allow them to manipulate, save and retrieve appropriate digital content.

We also recognise how crucial it is for young children to have a strong, age-appropriate understanding of how to keep safe when using digital technology, computing hardware and software and the internet. Through our teaching we therefore aim for our pupils to feel safe and protected. We also want our children to be well-informed and be able to self-regulate when using technology and the internet and all it has to offer.

Implementation and how Computing is taught

In order to teach computing, the school is equipped with a range of resources, software and hardware. As well as computers, we also have a bank of iPads that can be moved between classrooms. This then enables individual, small group or whole class teaching of computing. The children are also given opportunities to use other forms of hardware such as programmable toys. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard and a range of software to support children's learning. Mobile tablets are also being used to support children's learning and assessment and to communicate with parents about their child's learning and well-being.

Computing skills are taught throughout the school as both a discrete subject and through other curriculum subjects such as Maths, Science or Art. The teaching of Computing in Key Stage One is split into the following main units of learning: -

- E-Safety
- Information Technology and Digital Technology.
- Algorithms and Programming.

Computing in the Early Years Foundation Stage, is taught as part of the following areas of learning:-

- Understanding the World
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development (motor skills)
- Expressive Arts and Design

Computing in Reception is therefore taught as a cross curricular approach and across particular units and topics of learning.

Throughout the school's Computing curriculum, pupils are taught about how to keep themselves safe when using technology and the internet and build a strong awareness of any potential risks at an age-appropriate level. The children are taught and learn about different strategies to keep safe, including knowing what to do and who to talk to if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe when using technology or the internet.

Furthermore, and in partnership with our ICT technical support company, Harrap ICT, the school has a strong and effective internet filtering system called Watchguard Firebox, that is monitored regularly by the Headteacher and Harrap ICT.

Curriculum Impact.

By the end of each academic year, the majority of pupils have learnt to use and manipulate age-appropriate computing skills, hardware and software. They are also able to use computing skills to enhance learning within other areas of the curriculum, such as in Maths, Science or Art. Pupils' computing skills progress effectively through each year group and pupils have a strong awareness of age-appropriate ways to feel and keep safe when using technology and the internet.

The teaching and learning of Computing and Alton Infant School therefore equips children for the next steps of their digital education and provides them with the skills to enhance their future learning.