

Curriculum report to Governors Computing

November 2021

Subject leader: David Polidano

Intent

Computing supports our school vision of inspiring *life in all its fullness* through its contribution to our provision of the widest possible breadth of curriculum, equipping our children to use computational thinking and creativity to further understand and contribute to the wider world. We believe that computing, and computational thinking, are an integral part of all learning.

Our intent and aims for computing are that all children will be able to develop a range of skills, knowledge and understanding that will equip them for the rest of their lives. We are aware that each child's starting point is very different, so our computing curriculum is designed with high expectations and to develop skills sequentially in all of our children, drawing on and extending their prior knowledge in the subject. Our breadth of provision is also designed to allow children to discover and develop new talents in the area and to make links with other areas of learning. We offer a range of enrichment activities, both within our school setting and outside the classroom.

With computer science at the heart of our computing curriculum, we aim to teach children the principles of information and computation, how a range of digital systems work and operate, and how to put this knowledge into practice through programming, as stated in the National Curriculum. Our children will be able to use technology efficiently and access the online world safely, respectfully and responsibly – skills that are compatible with other aspects of their lives and learning. The skills learnt in computing are transferable to a range of different subjects, as well as later in life for the future workplace. Our aim is that our children will become digitally literate contributors and active participants in a digital world.

Implementation

- Taught by class teachers, with support from part-time specialist teacher.
- Class teachers are given ongoing support by the Computing subject leader and a specialist teacher, who have also provided CPD to class teachers in the past.
- Ongoing assessment by class teachers, with end of year assessments against key statements reported to parents in annual reports.
- Enrichment in the subject is offered through after school clubs such as Code Club and Tech Club, and yearly trips to the City Learning Centre in Camden.
- Computing, and Digital Literacy in particular, is often linked to other areas of the curriculum publishing work on the computer, graphs created in different programs, researching information for different topics.
- School has a good supply of computing resources for different needs and is able to borrow equipment from the CLC if needed.
- Wifi throughout the school allows children to use the class sets of Chromebooks and/or iPads throughout the school building
- Licences and subscriptions have been purchased for various programs, websites and organisations to help facilitate learning and the use of technology RodoCodo, Discovery Education, Twinkl, 5-a-day, PurpleMash.
- Our progression in the teaching of coding skills is guided by our use of the Rodocodo children's coding program. The
 development of coding skills in Years 1 -6 begins with lessons focused on the appropriate levels and coding
 elements taught within Rodocodo.
- Children are expected to <u>transfer the skills learnt in Rodocodo to other software and platforms</u>, including those using different coding formats or languages. Teachers select and introduce a range of programs and platforms where children can practise and consolidate their coding learning (e.g. J2code, Scratch, Purple Mash coding, Barefoot lessons), including by transferring their coding knowledge to specific tasks (e.g. creating a maths game, animating a fairy tale). This is linked to our termly lessons expectations as set out in the *Coding Overview* document.
- Within a range of digital literacy activities across the curriculum, all children are given the opportunity to develop
 the specific IT skills as set out in our skills progression. Children may have varying access to and experience of
 technology outside school and some children may need specific or additional teaching or support to build
 confidence in these key skills.
- Teachers give <u>ongoing</u>, <u>age-appropriate reminders</u> about safe and responsible use of technology before and during all computing and online activities.
- Each year, teaching about online safety and digital citizenship, as set out in our skills progression document, is also taught in all classes in a <u>specific whole-school theme day or week</u>.

- Home learning periods have embedded learning from previous topics. Children were able to complete coding tasks
 online and some chose to type written work to publish. Quite a lot of daily activities involved the children using
 computers or technology to access information, research or complete a task.
- Regular reminders about Online Safety were given during home learning, with classes setting regular tasks for children to complete to consolidate learning from school and give relevant reminders.

Impact

- Children enjoy taking part in computing lessons.
- All children develop their skills using a range of programs and devices. These skills are cumulative over their time at Christ Church and build upon previous learning.
- Children have a good knowledge of coding and are able to transfer this to different platforms (eg. Scratch, RodoCodo, J2Code, PurpleMash).
- Children have the opportunity to use computers and technology across the curriculum.
- Children use relevant computing vocabulary and can discuss the meaning of these words
- Children have been able to use technology during home learning to both continue building skills in the subject, and
 facilitate learning in other areas of the curriculum. Some classes also took part in touch typing activities throughout
 the home learning period.

Mhole school standards (two year trend)

Last year's key developments and successes in 2020/21:

- Refine collection of evidence in teaching and planning folders for coding taught outside RodoCodo and other wider computing activities (20/21 target partially achieved – new Coding Overview will assist with this)
- Continued development of teachers' confidence in teaching computing through discussion and CPD with computing lead and specialist teacher (20/21 target achieved – training given to staff on RodoCodo and Purple Mash coding.
 Ongoing assistance available)
- Continued annual visits to CLC (Spring term) if possible, visits to school from CLC staff or virtual workshops (20/21 target not possible due to Covid restrictions will continue this academic year)
- Training for class teachers in PurpleMash (20/21 target achieved)
- Training for staff and set up of Google Classrooms, to be used for some homework activities and possibly in the event of class closures. (20/21 target achieved)
- Renewal of CEOP/Online Safety training for all staff (20/21 target achieved Head teacher took part in CEOP training, all other teaching staff took part in Online Safety Alliance course)
- Annual Digital Citizenship/Online Safety day (20/21 target achieved during remote learning)
- Purchase of class set of ChromeBooks (Autumn Term) training for staff and pupils (20/21 target achieved)

The **anti-racist curriculum review** asked us to consider both the inspirational figures related to coding or technology which the children learn and hear about and the characters represented in the computing resources we use to ensure they reflect the diversity in our society. It also asked us to reflect on whether pupils are taught to be questioning and critical of the information they find online (e.g. is it presented with a western bias). Our Y5/6 digital citizenship teaching includes objectives on questioning, checking and appraising information online.

COVID impact – remote learning provision and recovery curriculum

Home learning provision (March–June 2020 and January-March 2021)

- Children were able continue to build computing skills during home learning though online activities in PurpleMash, Discovery Coding and RodoCodo.
- Some classes were set touch typing tasks online
- Children were able to use technology to help facilitate learning in other areas of the curriculum researching, producing work, filming, communication with teachers online.
- Children all enjoyed using technology to help with their home learning. Some parents even gave feedback that other members of the family were also taking part in the activities set by teachers.
- Online safety activities were set on a weekly or fortnightly basis for children to complete with their families and provided reminders about using technology and the internet safely.
- Teachers' feedback of home learning was positive. Some were more confident setting computing tasks than others. Some support from specialist teacher was used to set specific tasks.
- Home learning in the instance of student self-isolation or class closure will now utilise Google Classroom and teaching videos/zoom input to support new learning at home. Teachers will have the option to set computing activities, which may involve coding or completing tasks online using some of our subscriptions mentioned above.
- More use of online subscriptions such as PurpleMash or Busy Things to set tasks and give feedback

Whole school projects

- During home learning, all children took part in an online safety/digital citizenship day
- Ongoing online safety and respectable use reminders

Recovery curriculum:

No major adaptations to our Computing curriculum have had to be made for 21/22 school year, as the majority of key skills continued to be taught at home or at school last year.

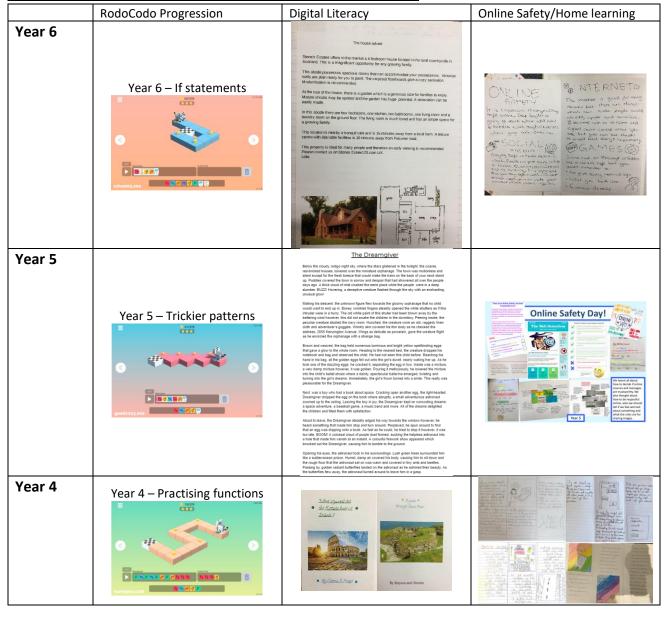
The DfE recovery curriculum document suggests the following:

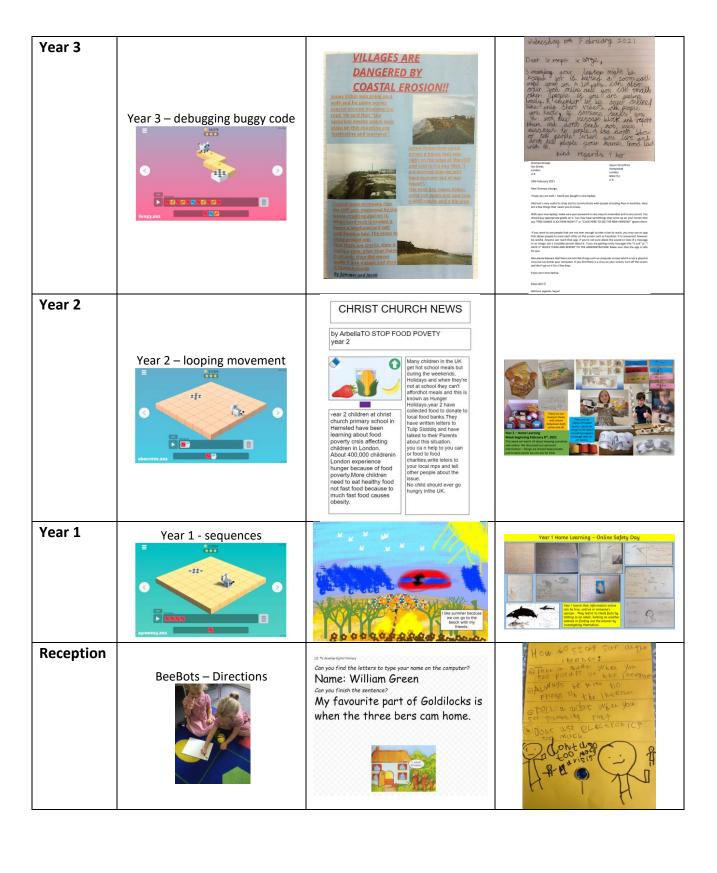
- priority should also be given to using computing devices safely and responsibly
- teachers should give priority to developing pupils' knowledge of algorithms, notably sequencing in key stage 1.
 At KS2
- teachers should focus on sequencing, selection and repetition.
- pupils should be given enough time to practise programming to secure knowledge of key programming constructs.
- gaps in knowledge of how to use digital devices should be identified and addressed. It is important that pupils use devices confidently and competently, so that they can focus on complex tasks without also having to learn how to use a device, which may otherwise get in the way of processing information.

Key targets and actions moving forward (development priorities for 2021/22):

Target and intended outcome	Planned actions (including dates where applicable)
1. Ensure teaching of coding follows <i>Coding</i>	Staff meeting with all class teachers and specialist teacher to explain
Overview document.	Coding Overview document.
All children to have experience of coding	Ongoing staff training and support from specialist computing teacher
using a range of programs/platforms over	and subject leader.
the academic year.	
2. Reintroduce Computing enrichment with	Trips to be decided upon by subject leader and specialist teacher (in
visits to the CLC and after school clubs.	conjunction with class teachers).
All children to receive enrichment	CLC visits to target aspects of the curriculum that are more difficult to
opportunities to build on computing skills	cover at school due to equipment/expertise.
and enjoyment in the subject.	Code Club to start in Spring term for KS2 children. Possible re-
	introduction of Tech Club in Spring/Summer term.
3. Continue to use training to build staff	In- school training from specialist teacher and subject leader on the
confidence in teaching coding strand of the	curriculum progression in coding.
curriculum.	Training to include time to use and experiment with software to give
All staff to feel more confident in the	class teachers experience across a range of programs.
technology, skills progression and coding	Open this training to support staff as well as teaching staff.
strand of the computing curriculum and can	Autumn term 2021 and Spring term 2022
successfully teach this to children in their	
classes.	

Work sampling 2020/21 – in school projects and home learning





Pupil voice

Pupil voice discussions in September 2021 demonstrated that:

Children could talk about what they had been learning about recently and clarify skills they had learnt with confidence:

'We learnt how to debug coding in RodoCodo. We researched ancient Egyptians so we could make a poster.' (Year 3 pupil)

'We learnt about functions – a specific piece of code for a purpose that you can put in when you want. We typed up data for geography about mountain ranges.' (Year 5 pupil)

'We have been learning about nested loops, which is a loop in a loop, and functions. We have also typed up character descriptions on Alex Rider' (Year 6 pupil)

'We used RodoCodo and learnt functions – repeated patterns. We had to add something to the function to get all three stars' (Year 2 pupil)

'We used beebots and then started RodoCodo. We made pictures on the iPad too.' (Year 1 pupil)

'We researched what people in the Stone Age used for weapons.' (Year 4 pupil)

Children could explain specific terminology in detail:

Y3 children were able to explain what debugging is.

Y2 child was able to explain a loop.

Children could talk about how prior learning – previous lessons or even years – has helped with their computing learning now:

'Last year we looked at loops, but this year they are trickier.' (Year 5 pupil)

'Last year we looked at functions and loops, but this year we are looking at nested loops which are more advanced' (Year 6 pupil)

'We learnt about safe searches last year, and we are able to do these this year' (Year 4 pupil)

'Last year we were writing simple coding, and this year we are debug more difficult things.' (Year 3 pupil)

'When we were in Reception we used the BeeBots so it was easier for us this year when we used them' (Year 1 pupil)

'We are doing more difficult levels (RodoCodo) than we did last year. We are learning loops and functions now' (Year 2 pupil)

Children could talk about what helped them to remember what they had learnt in computing:

'In previous years we learnt the basics – loops – and this year it is trickier so we can use that to help us.' (Year 5 pupil) 'We learnt about loops and repeated patterns, then a couple of weeks later we had to fill in a sheet about it.' (Year 6 pupil)

'We are reminded about how to use the internet safely all the time.' (Year 4 pupil)

'When we were researching we had to remember how to do it safely and our teacher reminded us.' (Year 3 pupil)

Additional comments during discussions:

'I learnt new things about using a computer because my classmates showed me shortcuts, like searching images' (Year 5 pupil)

'We have also been using maths frame on the ipads – this is an app where you can practise your maths skills. I would like to do even more coding, like RodoCodo.' (Year 4 pupil)

'I really like researching using the internet and would like to do even' (Year 6 pupil)

'I really enjoy it when we can do our own research' (Year 3 pupil)

What makes our curriculum provision for Computing exceptional and beyond the expected?

- Computing enrichment opportunities at the CLC
- The skilled support and training provided by our specialist computing teacher is beyond the expected
- Student confidence using devices appropriately is exceptional

Key points for discussion with governors about this report

- Sharing Skills Progression and Coding Overview showing how this all fits together and builds year on year
- Google Classroom successful use during remote learning
- Importance of online safety work within computing and across curriculum, as well as school day/routines
- Three strands Coding (computer science), Information Technology (Digital Literacy), and Online Safety (Digital Citizenship)