COMPUTING POLICY

2025-2027

COORDINATOR HOLLY JERVIS

Policy Statement

The online world and today's developments in technology provides children with a wealth of opportunities to learn and explore. For many children, their online world is as important as their offline world. Being online can offer children great benefits such as access to information, alternative ways of communication, self-expression and developing resilience and problem-solving skills. Computing education plays an important part in educating our pupils to become responsible and healthy citizens in an ever-evolving digital world. We believe that all pupils should have access to an engaging and inclusive curriculum focusing on computer science, 'computational thinking', digital literacy and information technology. Our Computing curriculum also encompasses explicit teaching of how to keep safe when using technology, developing awareness of the benefits and potential dangers faced in a digital world and equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to deal with problems appropriately.

Curriculum Intent

At The Beacon PRU, we understand the immense value that technology plays in the whole school curriculum and in the day-to-day life of our school. We believe that technology can provide: enhanced collaborative learning opportunities; better engagement of pupils; access to rich content and can support the needs of all our pupils.

Our Aims:

- To provide an exciting, relevant and challenging Computing curriculum for all pupils.
- Enthuse and equip pupils with the capability to use technology throughout their lives.
- Give pupils access to a variety of high-quality hardware, software and unplugged sources.
- Develop and utilise computational thinking within and beyond the Computing curriculum
- Instil critical thinking, reflective learning and a 'can do' attitude when engaging with technology and its associated resources.
- Teach pupils to become responsible, respectful and competent users of data, information and communication technology.
- Equip pupils with skills, strategies and knowledge that will enable them to reap the benefits of the online world, whilst being able to minimise risk to themselves or others.
- Use technology imaginatively and creatively to inspire and engage all pupils, as well as using it to be more efficient in completing tasks across all areas of the curriculum.
- To provide equal opportunities for all pupils to achieve their full potential through inclusive curricular and extra-curricular activities

Curriculum Implementation

Pupils participate in weekly Computing lessons, taught discretely through our 2-year rolling programme of Topic themes (see Curriculum Policy) in order to achieve the aims of the Computing and Online Safety curriculum at The Beacon PRU. In addition to these Topic lessons, skills taught are incorporated into other subjects, given the cross-curricular nature of computing and the opportunity to develop and support learning across other curriculum areas. Computing has deep links with mathematics, science, design technology. Computational thinking plays an important part of the curriculum and supports our pupils to understand, follow and give clear instructions,

developing their English and Speaking & Listening skills. Pupils are encouraged to celebrate their mistakes in learning and 'debug' their own thinking. This supports pupils to learn resilience and develop a growth mindset approach to learning – 'I can't do it YET!'

Furthermore, The Beacon PRU's Keeping Safe Curriculum and Enrichment programme and PSHE curriculum 'Jigsaw', provides regular opportunities for pupils to learn about online safety. Our enrichment programme has termly focus sessions for Online Safety/CSE utilising resources from ChildNet, NSPCC, CEOP, Google and the UK Safer Internet Centre.

Lessons are delivered using a range of devices and through un-plugged activities to further embed computational thinking skills and the relevance and significance of these skills in other areas of their lives. Devices include, computers, i-Pads, interactive whiteboards/SMART screens and programmable toys. Our online learning platform, Purple Mash, is a safe and secure online environment used to support learning across all areas of the curriculum. We encourage pupils to log in at home to continue their learning outside of school. Purple Mash is safe and secure from the wider online network and is monitored by teaching staff and the Computing Coordinator to ensure all interactions and activities are safe and age-appropriate. Pupils have their own log ins and passwords and parents are encouraged to sync accounts with pupils, giving access the Parent Portal which enables them to view activities completed or engage with tasks set as home learning.

The delivery of Computing and Online Safety is planned in line with the National Curriculum and allows for clear progression as children move through each stage of their education with us. Teacher use the 'Purple Mash Computing' scheme to support their planning of a progressive and comprehensive curriculum. Computing is broken down into three core principles: Computer Science, Information Technology and Digital Literacy.

- Computer Science (programming and understanding how digital systems work)
- Information Technology (using computer systems to store, retrieve and send information)
- Digital Literacy (evaluating digital content and using technology safely and respectfully.

In addition, '2BeSafe' sessions are taught every half term to promote the teaching and learning of Online Safety and make links to our curriculum for Mental Health. 2BeSafe is an online safety scheme of work to meet the guidance set out by the DfE and UKCIS framework "Education for a Connected World". Each session within 2BeSafe includes opportunities for formative assessment, as well as thought-provoking questions that promote critical thinking and discussion. Both 2BeSafe and Mental Health schemes of work provide full-coverage and progression for each year group and encompass access to software and technology to deliver these lessons effectively.

Computing learning extends beyond the school day, through personalised activities set as 2Dos on Purple Mash. This is monitored half termly by the Computing Coordinator and teaching staff are responsible for setting, marking and responding to pupils. We also offer technology and online safety themed stories within our Reading home learning provision, where pupils can choose a Story Sack to take home for a weekend. To support parents and families, we have produced 6 LEGO carry-case kits with story-style Build & Talk activities, providing a playful way to engage in otherwise difficult conversations about digital safety topics while playing with LEGO® bricks. These kits are available on parent request, during our termly Online Safety Weeks. We hope this will support parents and carers to initiate conversations with their child about use of technology, aid in setting healthy limits and raise awareness of the dangers of the online world, through the characters and events in the stories.

The Beacon PRU also offers termly extra-curricular activities, providing pupils with an opportunity to enhance their personal development and to extend the students learning experience in the classroom. Our Computing after-school clubs allow pupils to develop their knowledge further and encourage experience and expertise in

areas such as coding and use of Micro:bits. Activities and clubs will be available to all pupils subject to guidance from staff.

Curriculum Impact

Assessment of the computing curriculum will be measured in a variety of different ways, including teacher assessment and tracking on the Data Dashboard of Purple Mash, through pupil voice, lesson observations (in line with the school's curriculum monitoring policy) and through work scrutiny. Pupils receive feedback and support during lessons. Alongside the 'judgements' made in the Data Dashboard, pupils can also be awarded a 'reward' for achievements in eight different categories: Effort, Excellence, Inspiration, Achievement, Thinking, Resourcefulness, Learning and Presentation.

The monitoring and evaluation of the Computing Curriculum will be carried out in the following ways:

- Computing Coordinator and Curriculum Coordinator meeting with class teachers during curriculum staff meetings and curriculum drop-in sessions.
- Supporting staff in the teaching of Computing by being informed about current developments, significant dates, relevant training opportunities and by disseminating or providing in-house training and support using expertise.
- Through the Computing action plan, identifying subject strengths and weaknesses, highlighting areas for development through SDP.
- By carrying out lesson observations.
- By ascertaining pupil views through Purple Mash questionnaires and Class Council meetings.
- Through sending and collating information from Parent Voice questionnaires (sent remotely through Bounce Surveys)
- Through our PSHE Curriculum (continuous) and our Keeping Safe Enrichment programme (termly).

Assessment of the computing curriculum will be measured in a variety of different ways, including teacher assessment and tracking on the Data Dashboard of Purple Mash, through pupil voice, lesson observations (in line with the school's curriculum monitoring policy) and through work scrutiny. Pupils receive feedback and support during lessons. Alongside the 'judgements' made in the Data Dashboard, pupils can also be awarded a 'reward' for achievements in eight different categories: Effort, Excellence, Inspiration, Achievement, Thinking, Resourcefulness, Learning and Presentation.

Safeguarding: Online Safety

Online Safety has a high-profile at The Beacon PRU for all stakeholders. We ensure this profile is maintained and that pupil needs are met by the following:

- A relevant up-to-date online safety curriculum, differentiated for individual pupil needs, age and ability.
- A safety curriculum that is embedded throughout other curriculum areas and influential in the day-to-day lives of our pupils and staff
- Training in line with KCSIE 2025, for staff and governors which is relevant to their needs and positively impacts on the pupils, ensuring all stakeholders know how to escalate concerns
- Scheduled pupil and parent voice sessions
- Through our home/school links and communication channels (including the school website), parents are kept up to date with relevant information. They know who to contact at school if they have any concerns.
- Pupils, parents and staff have Acceptable Usage Policies which are signed on induction.
- Web filtering and device monitoring systems are in place for all online access, through Chestnut IT and the use of Smoothwall. These systems are tested regularly by the DSL and follow the DfE filtering and monitoring standards.
- Data protection policies stipulate how we keep confidential information secure.

- Our Mobile Phone Policy stipulates children are not allowed to access their mobile phones during the school day and staff use is carefully considered and controlled within the premises.
- Use of Purple Mash is monitored by the Computing Coordinator and Class Teachers. Purple Mash is a safe, secure environment, separate from the wider online world, and all pupil sharing, interactions and communications require approval from teaching staff.

Technology, and the risks and harms related to it evolve and change rapidly. We will carry out an annual review of our approach to online safety that considers and reflects the risks pupils face. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a new and developing field and the implications within safeguarding will be closely monitored over the next year and the appropriate response will be led within the unit to have the appropriate level of security protection procedures in place in order to safeguard our systems. We review the effectiveness of these procedures periodically to keep up with evolving cyber-crime technologies. The DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) will take lead responsibility for online safety and understanding the filtering and monitoring systems in place. This is ratified by our Management Committee. The DSL alongside our IT lead, will oversee the delivery of the e-safety curriculum ensuring safeguarding is maintained. Please see Safeguarding Policy.

Furthermore, The Beacon PRU's Keeping Safe Curriculum and Enrichment programme and PSHE curriculum 'Jigsaw', provides regular opportunities for pupils to learn about online safety. Our enrichment programme has termly focus sessions for Online Safety/CSE utilising resources from ChildNet, NSPCC, CEOP, Google and the UK Safer Internet Centre.