

Our Lady of the Wayside's Computing Curriculum

General information	
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Our aspirations and aims for Computing at Our Lady of the Wayside Catholic School Our curriculum intent

As Catholic Primary educators, we are passionate about computing.

At our school we want children to be masters of technology and not slaves to it. Technology is everywhere and will play a pivotal part in children's' lives,. Therefore, we want to model and educate our children on how to use technology positively, responsibly and safely. We want our children to understand that there is always a choice with using technology and as a school we utilise technology to model positive use. We recognise that the best prevention for a lot of issues we currently see with technology/social media is through education. Building our knowledge in this subject will allow children to effectively demonstrate their learning through creative use of technology We recognise that technology can allow children to share their learning in creative ways. We also understand the accessibility opportunities technology can provide for our children. Our knowledge rich curriculum has to be balanced with the opportunity for children to apply their knowledge creatively which will in turn help our children become skilful computer scientists. We encourage staff to embed computing across the whole curriculum to make learning creative and accessible. We want our children to be fluent with a range of tools to best express their understanding and aim by Upper Phase (Year 5 and Year 6) where children have the independence and confidence to choose the best tool to fulfil the task and challenge set by teachers.

At Our Lady of the Wayside, computing is taught in discreet computing lessons as well as embedded across the curriculum. The computing curriculum is delivered through a published scheme called Kapow. The scheme adheres to the Computing National Curriculum. It has six objectives for KS1 and seven objectives for KS2. Although not explicitly defined in the curriculum, these objectives can be split into three distinct strands; computer science, information technology and digital literacy. We view these three strands as:

Computer Science (CS) is the 'foundation' of the subject (i.e. the underlying principles that make up the subject).

Information Technology (IT) is how you 'apply this knowledge' and understanding to purposefully create and make things.

Digital Literacy (DL) is about considering the 'implications' of how you going about doing this.

Our computing curriculum ensures a broad and balanced coverage of all of the above strands.

Every lesson in our scheme has been individually planned so that it can be effectively taught using the infrastructure we have in place at school and so that it can meet the needs of all our children. Having discreet lessons means that the children are able to develop depth in their knowledge and skills over the duration of each of their computing topics. Where appropriate, meaningful links will be made between the computing curriculum at the wider curriculum. In computing lessons the children will use either the iPads, laptops or other computer devices in order to access a range of apps and software. Discreet computing lessons will focus on the curriculum skills of information technology, digital literacy and computer science.

When teaching computing we are mindful that our children must explore and learn about the social, moral and cultural issues that affect human behaviour. To achieve this, we have threaded the 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching through our curriculum:

1. Life and dignity of the Human Person
2. Call to family, Community and Participation
3. Rights and Responsibilities
4. Option for the poor and vulnerable
5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers:
6. Solidarity
7. Care for God's Creation