



ICT

Parent Mini
Guides

The Three Schools

Computing at The Three Schools

The Curriculum

The new 2014 National Curriculum has introduced Computing, which replaces ICT (Information and Communication Technology).

Computing has been divided into three strands:

- Computer science- learning the principles of information and computation; how digital systems work; programming and debugging using logical reasoning
- Information technology- applying computer systems to solve 'real life problems'; creating and organising, storing, manipulating and retrieving digital content
- Digital literacy- recognising common uses of information technology beyond school; knowing why and how technology should be used safely and respectfully; identifying where to go for help and supporting concerns about content or contact.

Digital Technology and Resources

At The Three Schools, each class has a laptop trolley and each site has a set of iPads which can be signed in and out for use in lessons. Each classroom also has Apple TV set up, enabling children and staff to link the iPads with the interactive SMARTboards set up in each classroom. Not only do the children and teachers use the laptops and iPads, they also use a range of handheld still and video cameras and small programmable toy Bee-bots within their ICT lessons. They also have access to technology such as CD players and voice recorders.

Software

The school subscribes to a number of educational online learning resources for children e.g. Nessy Spelling and Maths, MyMaths, Espresso coding, Scratch, Kodu, Python Programming, Algodoo and Sketchup. These combined with programs such as 2Simple and the Microsoft Office package give our children access to a wide variety of software through which they can resourcefully and inventively approach the learning opportunities presented by the new national curriculum.

Progression

The progression in ICT throughout our school, whereby the children build upon skills, means that our pupils become confident, competent ICT users by the end of Year 6. In order to maximise this potential, lessons are taught by an ICT specialist in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 - 6).

ICT is taught as a subject in its own right, and it is also used to support children's learning in other subjects, including Literacy and Mathematics. Wherever possible, cross-curricular links are made, building on whatever the children are learning in ICT at that time.

In Foundation and Key Stage 1 (Years 1-2), the children learn:

1. Uses of technology within their environment.
2. How to use and control programmable toys such as Bee-bot.
3. How to log onto and off the computer independently.
4. How to draw with a computer, building on this to incorporate text in Year 2
5. How to take digital photos
6. How to make movies using flip-cams
7. How to use the basic functions of Microsoft Word

In Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3-4), the children build on the previous skills and learn:

1. How to code and create animations using Scratch
2. How to create posters and leaflets using Microsoft Word
3. How to takes photos, screenshots and film using iPads
4. How to design and create structures using Lego Software
5. How to use Microsoft PowerPoint, incorporating hyperlinks in Year 4
6. How to use the basic features of Excel to create tables and graphs
7. How to manipulate images using Pixlr

In Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5-6), the children build on the previous skills and learn:

1. How to develop coding to create more complex animations including strings on commands with Scratch
2. How to use a simple Computer-Aided Design (CAD) tool such as Sketchup
3. How to create simulations
4. How to program and code games using Kodu
5. How to use Excel to present data effectively and to create spreadsheets, including using formulae - this is linked to projects involving money and budgets
6. How to develop and refine coding and programming in preparation for Year 7 and Key Stage 3.

Internet Safety

Nowadays, children are using ICT increasingly at home and in school. At The Three Schools, Internet safety is taken extremely seriously, with every year group being taught about it. Through the use of eSchools, we are able to encourage them to send messages, create blogs and communicate online safely and responsibly.

We also now use an online program called Gooseberry Planet to help teach Internet safety throughout the year. Gooseberry Planet uses gaming technology to help children learn about Internet safety. In the course of a familiar game, children are exposed to online issues relevant to them. Gooseberry Planet has a number of Apps for schools, which will facilitate teaching about Internet Safety in school and at

home

Ways you can help at home

We know that children who use ICT at home

- Improve their general ICT skills through regular practice.
- Have a wider, more flexible range of materials to help support home learning activities.
- Can present information in different ways.
- Can connect learning at school with tasks at home and develop skills for life.

If your child has access to a computer at home, you can encourage them to:

1. Log on and off independently.
2. Practice mouse control.
3. Save and retrieve their own files.

Other ways to help:

1. Encourage children to give and follow directional instructions.
2. Allow them to use technology such as phones to familiarise them with elements of control.
3. Always remind your child of the importance of e-safety

Using the Internet safely at home:

Whilst many Internet Service Providers offer filtering systems and tools to help you safeguard your child at home, it remains surprisingly easy for children to access inappropriate material. Parents are advised to set the security levels within Internet Explorer or other browsers with this in mind. Locating the computer in a family area where possible, i.e. not a bedroom, will also enable you to supervise your son or daughter as they use the Internet. Regularly check the sites your child is visiting e.g. by clicking on History and Favourites. Explain that this is because you want to keep them safe rather than take the Internet away from them. Discuss the importance of Internet Safety, including the use of social media. Don't forget to also consider mobile phones, games consoles and other devices that can access the Internet.

Where to access further information:

CEOP	www.ceop.gov.uk
Think U Know	www.thinkuknow.co.uk
Childnet	www.childnet-int.org
Internet Watch Foundation	www.iwf.org.uk

Other useful sites:

When searching on the Internet, we recommend that you use one of the following child-friendly search engines:

Ask Jeeves for Kids	www.askkids.com
CBBS Search	www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/find
Kidsclick	www.kidsclick.org
Yahoo! Kids	www.kids.yahoo.com