



Computing Policy

Updated: December 2024

Review: December 2026

Introduction

At Houghton, the aim of our Computing curriculum is to equip all our students with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in an increasingly digital world. This policy outlines the expectations and guidelines for delivering outstanding Computing education in our setting, as per the requirements outlined in the 2014 National Curriculum in England.

Vision

Our vision for Computing at our school is to provide an inclusive and engaging learning environment where all students, regardless of their individual needs, can develop the necessary skills and understanding to become active participants in a digitally-driven society.

Aims and Objectives

Our aims and objectives for Computing education are as follows:

1. To develop students' computational thinking skills, enabling them to solve problems and design solutions effectively.
2. To foster students' creativity, critical thinking, and resilience through engaging with a range of digital tools and technologies.
3. To ensure that students understand and practice safe and responsible use of technology, including online safety and digital citizenship.
4. To promote equality and inclusivity by ensuring that all students can access and engage with the Computing curriculum, taking into account their individual needs and abilities.
5. To develop students' understanding of the wider implications of technology, such as ethical considerations, environmental impact, and the role of technology in society.

Curriculum Implementation

Core Concepts

Our Computing curriculum covers three core concepts:

1. **Computer Science:** Teaching students about algorithms, programming, and computational thinking.
2. **Information Technology:** Equipping students with the skills to use and apply digital tools and technologies effectively.
3. **Digital Literacy:** Developing students' understanding of online safety, digital citizenship, and the wider implications of technology.

Content and Progression

The Computing curriculum will be delivered through a structured sequence of units and lessons, ensuring clear progression in knowledge and skills. The schemes used at Haughton are the Switched On Computing in Key Stage 2, Sheffield SEND Computing in Key Stage 1 and Cherry Graden in EYFS. The content covered will align with the expectations of the 2014 National Curriculum in England and will be adapted, to meet the learning needs and learning styles of our students.

Lessons and activities will be designed and differentiated to cater to the individual needs and abilities of our students. This may include the use of assistive technologies, modified resources, and collaborative group work. Additional support will be provided where needed to ensure all students can access the curriculum effectively.

Assessment

Formative and summative assessments will be used to monitor students' progress and understanding in Computing. These assessments will be tailored to reflect the individual needs and abilities of our students, allowing for alternative methods of assessment where necessary. Learning will be recorded and analyzed using the ISEND platform. Support will be provided to children in the form of interventions relevant to their need. Regular feedback will be provided to students, promoting self-reflection and supporting their ongoing development in Computing.

Online Safety

Online safety is of utmost importance at our school. We will ensure that all students receive appropriate education on online safety, including understanding the risks and how to stay safe online. This will be integrated into the Computing curriculum and reinforced through regular discussions and workshops in every lesson. School staff, governors and parents will all receive regular updates and training for their particular roles.

Staff development

Teachers responsible for delivering the Computing curriculum will receive regular training and support to enhance their subject knowledge and pedagogical skills. This will enable them to effectively meet the needs of our students and deliver outstanding Computing education.

Summary of Expectations

According to the latest Ofsted framework, an outstanding Computing curriculum in a Primary setting should:

- Provide an inclusive and engaging learning environment that enables all students, regardless of their individual needs, to develop the necessary skills and understanding.
- Ensure clear progression in knowledge and skills, aligned with the 2014 National Curriculum in England.
- Cater to the individual needs and abilities of students, using appropriate resources, assistive technologies, and differentiated teaching methods.
- Promote online safety and digital citizenship through integrated education and regular discussions.
- Provide regular formative and summative assessments that are tailored to reflect the needs of students.
- Support staff development in Computing, providing regular training and support to enhance subject knowledge and pedagogical skills.

By adhering to these expectations, our school will deliver an outstanding Computing curriculum that equips our students with the skills, knowledge, and understanding needed for success in the digital age.