The Meadow Community Primary School and Pre-School

Curriculum position statements – **September 2021**
Computing

Historical

In previous years, a dedicated and experienced member of staff taught computing and a second member of staff was responsible for the technology side of the subject; maintaining hardware, solving day-to-day technological problems across the school, liaising with external technicians and helping in the physical, technical setting up of lessons and computing units. Teachers had no involvement in the planning or assessment cycle of computing and were loosely aware of the units covered in this subject but used the time to deliver targeted intervention to pupils in their class. This changed the academic year beginning 2018, when class teachers became responsible for the preparation and teaching of the new computing curriculum for the first time. This was following the Rising Stars Switched On computing scheme that was already in place. This scheme, while following the national curriculum statements, was not the most engaging and didn't always feel relevant to the children, their needs or their interests. Some units required a lot of preparation in order for children to access the lessons, for example setting up an email address for all 60 children in the cohort.

We introduced a simpler assessment system in 2019 to make it clearer and easier for teachers to track progress of children against benchmarks set out in the scheme of work. This made the areas of weakness within the cohort explicitly clear and allowed me to both communicate these to the following year's teacher and amend the order of units being taught in order to prioritise and give more time to areas of need.

To support pupil premium learners and in support of cross curricular skills, each year group was given a set of iPads to keep in class. These have been used to support research, extend learning and deliver interventions such as Lexia. The PTA very kindly donated a full class set of new headphones for use in the ICT suite. This has had a hugely positive impact for year four as one of their units was related to composing music digitally and without this equipment is was near impossible. It has also enhanced the delivery of Lexia as an intervention in the ICT suite as it enabled pupils to benefit from the full experience of the software and having aspects read out to them digitally.

Due to COVID-19 staff said that they did not feel comfortable using the computing suite due to lack of adequate ventilation and difficulty in thoroughly cleaning. As a result, computing has not been taught during Spring and Summer terms of 2020-21. All year groups completed a compulsory e-safety unit in Spring 1 of 2020-21 with links to Safer Internet Day.

Current

Staff meetings are planned to address the growing concerns around the digital consumption of children during and following lockdown, to discuss things to look out for and how to deal with these. Staff has already read the appropriate government guidance resources with regards to this and will be reminded of these documents.

It is often frustrating, for children and teachers alike, to participate in computing in the computer suite as there are regularly computers which do not connect to the internet or whose screens work intermittently.

Each year group has a set of 6 iPads based in classrooms to enable the use of technology in all subjects. However, this is often difficult for staff to do as the iPads have apps, which regularly freeze or simply do not update to the latest version, which in turn, causes the app to malfunction.

Future aspiration

I aspire to branch out from the current rising stars scheme of work being followed to allow more interesting and innovative topics to be covered within our objectives of the three main areas of computing. I believe there are other schemes that would be easier for staff to teach with fewer strains on the physical technology we have in school now. I will speak to the school business manager about purchasing the appropriate scheme when staff have had an input on which they would find more beneficial to the children's learning.

In order to empower staff, I would like external agencies to provide training and CPD in areas needed.

I would like for the technology we currently have available to be more reliable to allow it to be used more regularly.

Instead of a computer suite, a bank of notebooks/chromebooks to be used for computing and the wider curriculum.

I would like technology to be readily available to other subjects to enhance learning across the curriculum, e.g. electronic microscopes to support science, AR apps to support Geography and History, green screen technology to be used curriculum wide.

I would like this subject to be taught or supported by an expert in this field so that both staff and children are supported wholly and there is minimum wasted learning time.