



The Meadow Community Primary School and Pre-School

Curriculum position statements – August 2024

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 it 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.

During 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 was not 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.

During the academic year 2021-22, a class set of iPads have been purchased which have been greatly appreciated by teachers as pupils were able to carry out research in other subjects, for example, history and geography. Year 5 pupils were able to create videos, as well as other year groups accessing apps such as Times Table Rockstars in Maths lessons to support their learning. During February 2022, all pupils participated in Internet Safety week named "All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online". Classes began to use the computing suite, with more confidence during the Summer Term and focused on computing skills as the pupils have not been to the suite for a while.

During the academic year 2022-23, a new scheme, which is funded by the Department for Education and supporting partners, was started in school. Classes have been back in the computing suite using desktop computers. Lessons have also taken place in classrooms using the class set of Ipads and Bee-Bots. Staff and children are starting to gain knowledge by teaching lessons that do not require equipment



but focus on gaining knowledge about computing. Staff have been given support and knowledge during two staff meetings in which the NCCE scheme of work was introduced and staff were shown how to use and access this. An Online Safety Day also took place in which children completed activities across the school and an assembly about online safety took place.

A session for teachers about the changes to KCSIE regarding filtering and monitoring took place on 2023 teacher training days. Concerns around who children are talking to online and children's safety when online were brought to the attention of staff. Online safety lessons once a half term will take place around a whole school theme that will be tailored to the current needs and concerns of the school.

Current

During the upcoming year, I would like to develop the curriculum to include more opportunities to apply what the children have learnt in ICT and sessions that allow them to use hardware to explore real computing applications. In addition, to apply knowledge learnt in computing across other curriculum areas.

Future aspiration

Now that the expectations for the computing curriculum are set, Online Safety will be the next focus. Online safety lessons once a half term will take place around a whole school theme that will be tailored to the current needs and concerns of the school. This will also show a progression of knowledge through year groups. This will enable to the children to be internet safety aware in everyday life.

The setting up of an ICT based after school club utilising new technologies such as drones, robotics etc.

All staff to be confident in using micro-bits within the curriculum.