

Oakthorpe Primary School
Computing / ICT Policy Statement
(updated September 2015)

Our Vision

We see Computing/ICT as an integral part of teaching and learning and see it playing a significant role in the education of all children in our school. ICT underpins today's modern lifestyle it is essential that all pupils gain the confidence and ability that they need in this subject, to prepare them for the challenge of a rapidly developing and changing technological world. The use of ICT will also enhance and extend children's learning across the whole curriculum whilst contributing to motivation and the development of social skills. To provide appropriate, fully integrated and supported ICT resources in order that the highest level of education can be offered to all pupils together with the efficient support of administrative and financial functions. When possible, we aim to utilize the most up to date ICT resources and recognize the need to remain aware of the potential uses of any emerging technologies. In addition, we hope to utilise existing resources both within the school and the wider community.

At Oakthorpe Primary School our aims for ICT are that:

- Children have a positive experience of ICT, appreciate its relevance in our society and that they see it as an essential tool for learning, communication, finding information and for controlling and understanding their environment;
- ICT be presented as a creative and fascinating process in which children are encouraged to use their own initiative, imagination, reasoning and investigative skills;
- All children become thoughtful users of ICT and develop their ICT capability to the best of their ability.
- Children learn to use ICT to support their learning, both individually and collaboratively;

Resources

The school is committed to providing a high standard of equipment to be used by staff and children and supports this by appropriate levels of funding in the annual budget. The ICT/Computing equipment in school can be found in detail in the inventory held by the ICT technician.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils regardless of race, gender or ability should have the opportunity to develop IT capability. We ensure that all our pupils :

1. have equal access to IT resources
2. have equal opportunities to develop IT capability
3. use software which is appropriate to their ability

ICT Across the curriculum

The ICT resources, particularly the projectors and SmartBoards, allow teachers to use ICT to support lessons across the curriculum. Coordinators work in partnership to ensure that appropriate software is available throughout the school.

Computing

In line with the development of the National Curriculum (2014) we will include dedicated ‘Computing’ lessons across the school. The children will be exposed to a greater range of technical vocabulary and given the opportunity write their own programs/algorithms to solve an identified issue.

E-Safety

E-safety plays a much more prominent role (See e-safety policy for further details) in line with the changing nature of the world our children are growing up in.

Planning and Assessment

We use a variety of planning resources and adapt them to fit the needs of the children. Teachers record the achievements of the children. Assessment of children’s capability will consider the skills developed, levels of independence and the context and purpose of the activity. This will help to plan appropriate future learning opportunities. Children are encouraged to make self assessments of their own work.

Training and Professional Development

INSET will be provided as school based training by the technician or ICT coordinator. The Senior Leadership Team/ IT coordinator and technician will discuss with colleagues their INSET needs, and either provide the relevant training or suggest courses for them to attend.

Health and Safety

It is the responsibility of staff to ensure that classroom ICT equipment is stored safely and securely and that they leave the ICT Suite clean and tidy after use. Food and drink should not be consumed near ICT equipment. All children are encouraged to be thoughtful users of ICT and under supervision will help with setting and putting laptop computers away.

Staff should ensure that the children are seated at the computers comfortably and be aware of the dangers of continuous use (e.g. eye/wrist strain etc).

Use of the Internet

The Internet is a potential source of offensive or upsetting material and staff should always supervise children when they are accessing information via the Internet, particularly when searching for images. The service provider does filter information but staff are ultimately responsible for information accessed by pupils. When possible, staff should search for files and save them locally for children to access through the school network. Children in KS2 all sign an agreement to say they will be sensible users of the Internet.

Blogging

Children will be able to contribute towards a variety of blogs during their time at Oakthorpe and all staff are aware of the importance of reinforcing the basic rules of Internet safety with their classes.

Note: Please see the Internet Safety Policy for additional information.

This policy will be reviewed as necessary in line with National or local requirements.