Computing at Horncastle

At Horncastle Primary School, our aspiration for each of our children is based upon the need for them to enter the world of work as articulate and literate users of technology. We strive to give pupils a stimulating environment, where technology is at the heart of our learning and presented in an attractive and inviting way. Pupils will use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world.

Technology and computing are our future – we are the future.

Our Aims and Purpose
- Digital literate pupils
- Safe users
- Creative learners
- Computational thinkers
- Competent users
- Confident users

How do we do it?
- Teachers will act as role models in their safe use of technology modelling correct use and vocabulary.
- Computing lessons create an environment that gives pupils the skills needed to use technology and stimulates the generation of ideas.
- Skills will be taught during a one-hour computing lesson each week. The skills will then be applied cross curricular in other subjects.
- Using modern technology forms an integral part of our approach to creating pupils who are ready to enter today's society and flourish.

The fundamentals
- A belief that every child can and will become a competent user of technology.
- A focus on teaching the skills of computing.
- A cross curricular approach giving chances for the skills to be applied.
- A focus on E-safety.
- Explicit teaching of vocabulary.
- A variety of high-quality computing programmes are used that are relevant to the time.
- Regular staff training.
- Working and relevant computing equipment.
- Regular use of computing equipment.
- E-safety displays in every classroom.

Horncastle Computing Strategies

Junior Online Safety Officers
Online Safety Committee
Regular teaching of E-safety
Computing across the curriculum
Use of laptop trolleys, iPads and computer suites
Skills taught explicitly each week
Skills applied across all subjects
Staff trained and competent in technology being used

Planning

We use one hour a week to teach the children the skills of computing using the computer suites around school. Class teachers are required to start each term with E-safety and then plan modules in line with their topic for that term using the subject progression document. These are mapped and tracked to ensure that each Key Stage/Year Group is being taught the relevant skills for their age. The approach merges many different teaching styles and strategies including: E-Safety, Shaping the Digital World, Communicating in the Digital World and Exploring the Digital World. Teaching skills explicitly and giving them the chance to apply them independently leads to better outcomes for our children. When teaching computing skills explicitly, we follow a yearly cyclical approach, as we strongly believe children learn best when skills are continuously revisited, built on and deepened. The children have the opportunity to use computing across different subjects and for different purposes. Modern and relevant programmes are used that respond to the age of the children, class interests and the everchanging world of technology.