

St Osmund's Computing Curriculum Framework

The St Osmund's computing curriculum framework at a minimum, fulfils the purpose and aims of the computing national curriculum. The curriculum is designed in unit blocks of varying lengths that run in 50 minutes to an hour sessions, weekly in KS3 and fortnightly in KS2. Each unit has a description of the learning outcomes that pupils are expected to achieve by the end of that sequence of learning, these amount to our age-related expectations. The units form the basis of what pupils learn in class, and will be adapted by class teachers who will tailor their own lesson plans based on assessments of pupil learning and appropriate teaching methods.

Within the computing curriculum, we are committed to providing equity and equality of opportunity to all pupils so that they all experience a rich curriculum and learning environment free from discrimination.

The curriculum allows opportunities for pupils to identify the issues of prejudice and discrimination arising through the increase and development of social media. They look at ways they can support others, report incidents and how they can be responsible E-citizens, considering the culturally diverse makeup of the wider communities. This is covered in all year groups in their online safety topics, looking at the profiles of young people and considering the wider issues arising from using derogatory, homophobic or racist language online.

Systemic racism is also explored within the computing curriculum in year 7, looking at software that has been created and the issues surrounding this. For example, facial recognition software that has been developed and its accuracy when considering genders and skin colours and the potential harmful issues that may arise from this. They also consider the lack of diversity within the computing industry and the impact this has when developing new programs and software.

Curriculum Intent

The intention of the Computing Curriculum is to inspire learners and provide a creative, engaging and inclusive curriculum for all, as well as developing a narrative of what computer science is.

The intention is that every pupil in key stage 2 and 3 has the opportunity to learn material that is recognisably 'Computer Science' and develop the key thinking skills described as 'Computational Thinking', thereby preparing students to confidently access and use all form of technology in the future. St Osmund's believes in providing a rich, deep learning experience that balances all the aspects of computing; computer science, information technology, and digital literacy, providing pupils with a varied curriculum.

The curriculum plans for sequences of learning, that provide opportunities to develop mastery in computational thinking concepts and build on these from KS2 to KS3. It is recognised that computational thinking can be developed in any of the strands of the curriculum.

The school values of Hope, Community, Respect and Love are also explored and promoted throughout the curriculum, especially within the modules recognising the importance of using technology in a safe and positive way and so online safety is threaded throughout the curriculum. At key stage 3, it is recognised that the ways of thinking developed in computing are useful and applicable across the curriculum; similarly, how logical and abstract thinking are developed in maths or science will compliment how thinking develops in computing.

Careers

Our computing curriculum at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 actively promotes careers education by embedding real-world connections in the different topics studied. We aim to inspire pupils by showing the breadth of opportunities available in the digital and technology world, helping them understand how the skills they develop in computing can lead to exciting and meaningful careers. We incorporate careers into our curriculum by:

- **Career Links in Different Units:** Within each year group, different units include examples of relevant careers, such as cybersecurity specialist, game designer, and digital animators. This helps pupils see the practical application of their learning.
- **Broad Range of Roles:** We showcase careers across diverse industries, including healthcare, engineering, creative arts, environmental science, and finance, demonstrating that computing skills are valuable in many contexts.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** We ensure that the careers highlighted represent a wide range of individuals, including different genders, ethnic backgrounds, and abilities. This promotes equality and challenges stereotypes in technology-related fields.
- **Role Models and Real-World Examples:** Where possible, we include stories of real professionals and innovators to inspire pupils and show that computing is for everyone.

Why This Matters

By embedding career awareness into the curriculum, we help pupils:

- Understand the relevance of computing in everyday life and future employment.
- Recognise that technology careers are accessible to all, regardless of gender or background.
- Develop aspirations and motivation to pursue further study or careers in STEM fields.

Spirituality

The computing curriculum at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 supports pupils' spiritual development by encouraging curiosity, creativity, and reflection.

Through activities, such as designing digital solutions for a range of problems, exploring algorithms, and understanding the impact of technology on society, pupils are given opportunities to appreciate the wonder of human ingenuity and the digital world. They are encouraged to reflect on ethical considerations, the responsible use of technology, and the impact of computing on our society. This fosters a sense of purpose, responsibility, and respect for others, which are integral to spiritual growth, along with our school's core values.

There are many examples of curriculum opportunities that have the potential to become moments that are bigger than ourselves. For example:

- Giving pupils opportunities to create their own digital content, allowing them to reflect on and show their own personal identities.
- Creating opportunities of wonder and awe. For example, simple instructions creating amazing outcomes in coding.
- Considering ethical and global issues associated with data sharing, privacy and respect, as well as allowing themselves to become positive digital citizens.

Spiralled Curriculum

The curriculum has been designed to build on pupils' prior knowledge. Each topic continues to be developed throughout the four years at St Osmund's, developing pupils' understanding of concepts and promoting good progress. Below shows the progression of some of the key topics within the curriculum.

Computer Science

		Binary		
		Binary Numbers	Other Binary Representations	Boolean Logic
Ks2	Year 5			
	Year 6	Converting blocks into binary digits and vice versa		Boolean Operators when using search engines
KS3	Year 7	Converting between binary and denary	Binary Encryption	Introduction to Logic Gates
		Writing Names using ASCII	Introduction to bitmap images using binary digits	
	Year 8	Binary Addition	Binary images	
			Sound Waves	
			2-bit images binary pictures	

Programming

		Programming					
		Logo	Scratch	Micro:Bits	Kodu	HTML	Python
Ks2	Year 5	Iteration, using repeats	Use movement, change costumes, speech				
		Creating Procedures	Iteration - Using repeats and loops				
			Introduction of subroutines				
			Use of variables to create algorithm art				
	Year 6		Use of selection - If and Else	Use of selection - If and Else			
			Use of multiple variables	Use of variables			
			Introduction to lists				

KS3	Year 7			Use of variables to create outputs	Use of iteration	Using html tags	Using the Python Editor to look at block code in Python in Micro:Bits
				Representing code in a flow chart	Selection – When and Do	Adding colour, hyperlinks and pictures using html	Changing parts of the Python code to make changes in their block code
	Year 8			Radio Function - sending and receiving messages			Create Inputs and Outputs
				Programming solutions to real life problems			Create variables for use within the code
							Use of selection - If, Elif and Else
							Use of operators
							Random lists

Digital Literacy

		Online Safety
Ks2	Year 5	Creating a Positive Digital Footprint
		Identifying Phishing Emails and Scams
		Protecting Information online. Passwords and Sharing information
		Cyberbullying - what it is, how to deal with it and prevention
	Year 6	Consent and social media. Terms and Conditions and gathering information
		Communicating safely online
		Promoting a positive digital footprint
		Protecting your information online – social media
KS3	Year 7	Identifying Cyberbullying and ways to deal with it
		Communicating safely online
		Social media and mental health
		Creators Rights – copyright
	Year 8	Digital Footprints and their future implications
		Consequences of a Digital Footprint
		Protecting yourself online/Sexting
		Identifying unsafe behaviour online from others



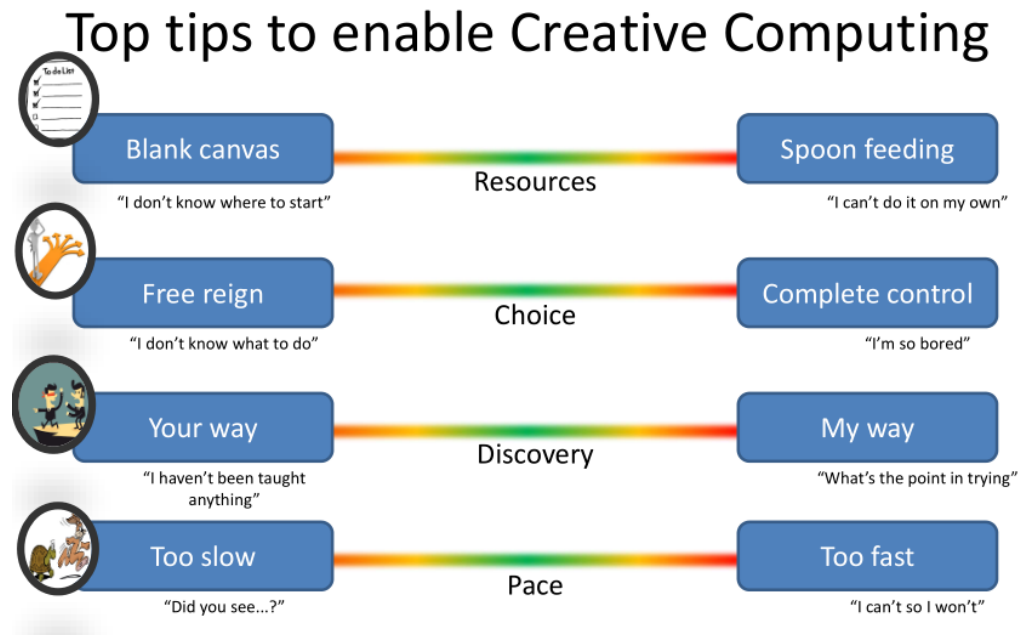
Barefoot would like to acknowledge the work of Julia Briggs and the eLIM team at Somerset County Council for their contribution to this poster.

Section 2: Pedagogical approaches and implementation

There are many different approaches that can be taken to deliver the curriculum content. Below are some of the main teaching methods we use in the delivery of the curriculum and their rationale to support teacher lesson planning.

The variety of resources available necessitates a consideration of the pedagogy that each of the resources utilises and how the pedagogy can be applied to your learners to ensure that each pupil achieves regardless of gender or need.

The NC focus is on computational thinking, creativity and problems solving.



Knowledge Organisers

Each module has an associated knowledge organiser that contains key vocabulary and important features of the programs they will be using. These will be easily accessible for pupils saved in their own files, as well as being displayed on the school website. Pupils will be able to reference these throughout the lessons, during questioning and 'Do it now' tasks to support their learning. There is also an option for SEND pupils to access a knowledge organiser tailored to the key foundational knowledge and support for reading the key vocabulary.

Do it now tasks

At the start of each lesson, pupils will be given some 'Do it now' retrieval questions that review past learning. By repeatedly revisiting concepts, this will help pupils commit learning to their long-term memory and aid their retrieval of key information. These are also available in audio form for pupils who have additional speech and language needs. All of the questions will be saved into each pupil's folder so that they can refer back to past questions, supporting the consolidation of knowledge.

Differentiation

In class, all pupils are exposed to challenging content, the teacher will adapt, scaffold or extend the curriculum depending on the need of individual pupils. Questioning is also targeted to individual pupils by the teacher, to consolidate and to extend, depending on the need of that pupil. Support materials for coding are also available to pupils to help with cognitive load. These show key elements of coding that can be changed and parts that need to be kept the same.

Previously high attaining pupils and potential high attaining pupils

Within each activity, high attaining pupils are encouraged to showcase their creativity and independent thinking. To obtain a band 5, pupils need to reference what new skills and individual content they have included in their project on their assessment grid. This content could be achieved by using hint sheets to explore new material and concepts, adapt what they have been taught to give a different outcome or include their own independent learning.

Supporting SEND and Pupil Premium

All teachers are aware of the SEND and Pupil Premium pupils within their classes. Teachers should have read any learning passports and become acquainted with how best to support that individual and their specific needs. Teachers will have also spent time devising a seating plan that best supports the learner's needs and identified key pairings for discussion and paired work.

All pupils study the same scheme of work, however, support materials are available throughout the curriculum to make it accessible for all. Also, each teacher will scaffold and adapt the lesson content to best suit the individuals' needs, so that every pupil can achieve their full potential and access the Computing Curriculum.

- **Key vocabulary** – The key vocabulary is displayed on the PowerPoint and referred to throughout the lesson. These are also included on the knowledge organisers, which splits each key word into its syllables to help with reading and pronunciation for pupils with speech and language needs.
- **Retrieval activities available to each pupil on their own screen** – Pupils have the “Do it now” PowerPoint on their own screen that they can type on. This prevents pupils having to retain information from reading from the board to writing it on a piece of paper, supporting those pupils with memory needs.
- **Audio versions of the DIN** – This aids those pupils with additional speech and language needs, as each question is recorded and they can listen through headphones allowing them to access the questions independently.
- **Teacher Modelling** – Teachers can take over the screen of pupils to demonstrate and model steps and procedures.
- **Support Videos** – For pupils who need extra consolidation of techniques and concepts, help videos are available for all pupils to watch at their own pace. This allows them to rewatch if needed and pause when required. This offers a greater level of independence as pupils have a recap on the teacher modelling available at all times.
- **Pupil handouts** – Pupils are supplied with written examples of code. Highlighted information can be changed by pupils to create an independent piece, but they can see what needs to stay the same. This helps to reduce the cognitive load of pupils when learning the concept of coding.
- **Pupil interests** – Pupils are able to interweave their own interests and hobbies into the concepts of coding to draw their interests and maintain their motivation.
- **Assessment Grids** – Topics are broken down into achievable steps for pupils to follow. This way, they can easily see their next steps and what is needed to achieve each band.

Unplugged activities

Unplugged activities are useful to focus the learning on just the intended understanding by reducing cognitive load. Several unplugged activities for developing algorithmic thinking are included in the curriculum.

Learning to Program

Introductory programming can be seen as equivalent to a language course or like learning a musical instrument; it involves practice and making lots of mistakes. Perseverance is required to develop fluency. By the end of year 8, we would like students to be able to independently code e.g. given a challenge and write the code without any input. That means that they must have developed skills and knowledge that they are confident enough to transfer to a new problem.

Students do need to memorise the syntax of some key programming constructs e.g., inputs/outputs, if statements, and for loops. This decreases cognitive load and enables students to practise programming more fluently. Typing activities and debugging challenges (syntax and logic errors) support the development of this fluency.

Pair programming

Pair programming is quite simple: pairs of programming students work collaboratively on a shared project and take turns acting in two roles: the Driver controls the computing device and writes the code, while the Navigator provides direction, spots errors, and thinks ahead to the next part of the project. Throughout a programming session, the pair regularly swaps roles, so that each individual performs each role several times while working on the same programming task.

Research has conclusively shown the efficacy of pair programming, so it is a recommended practice for computing teachers in schools.

Although the principle is simple, pair programming, when implemented well, has positive effects on the performance and attitude of learners, as well as added benefits for the teacher:

- › One of the benefits demonstrated by most studies is learners' increased engagement in and enjoyment of the programming task.
- › There is also evidence that, compared with solo programming, pair programming boosts learners' self-confidence and interest in the subject material. This may explain the increased student retention through introductory programming courses and into follow-up courses.
- › Studies have found that pair programming can lead to learning gains, most readily evidenced through improved code quality and programs with fewer common mistakes.
- › Pair programming has been shown to reduce cognitive load by effectively sharing any additional load between the pair. This "distributed cognition" means that each role takes on different types of cognitive tasks.

- › Opportunities to collaborate are valuable in and of themselves: students get to practice a transferable skill that is important for their future careers and especially sought after in the software development sector.
- › There are also added benefits for the teacher: firstly, each learner has a partner that they can direct low-level and practical questions to, freeing up the teacher to focus on the paired work going on.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgkahOzFH2Q>

PRIMM: A structured approach to teaching programming

PRIMM is one approach that has been researched as a way to help teachers to structure lessons in programming.



The following text is taken from:

<https://blogs.kcl.ac.uk/cser/2017/09/01/primm-a-structured-approach-to-teaching-programming/>

It is based on research into the learning of programming but combines different areas. Our overall interpretation of the research is that teaching programming requires a blended approach using a range of strategies.

PRIMM stands for the following:

- Predict
- Run
- Investigate
- Modify
- Make

You may not be able to go through all stages in one lesson and may even focus on one stage more than another but remembering PRIMM gives you a way of labelling what you are doing when you are teaching programming.

Being PRIMM-like in your lessons

The following table gives some examples of activities that can be used within a PRIMM-like approach. We would recommend that all these activities are done in pairs.

Stage	Activity	Why
Predict	In pairs look at a piece of code printed out or on the whiteboard and ask students what they think it will do. They can write down their prediction or discuss in a group class discussion. Live coding is quite useful here or the code can be already prepared.	This activity encourages students to look for clues in the program that suggest what its function is.
Run	Download a piece of code from a shared area and check against your prediction (don't copy in the code).	Having code that is provided has many benefits – it moves the weight of ownership of any errors from the student to the teacher, increasing confidence, and it also means that time is not spent copying in code, which can be a challenging exercise to students who struggle with literacy at any level.

Investigate	There are lots of different activities you can do at this stage: trace through the code, comment the code, answer questions about it, label particular concepts, highlight it, draw the flow of control, etc. Again pair work helps to encourage discussion about the nitty gritty of the program	It takes many activities of this type, repeated in different forms in different lessons, for students to start to understand the underlying concepts in a secure way. We may tend to think that writing one selection statement correctly means that students have a good understanding of selection but really “getting” this takes some time.
Modify	Given a working piece of code, students are challenged to add a variety of modifications, starting very simply and having a series of exercises increasing in difficulty with larger modifications.	The transfer of ownership moves from the code being “not mine” to “partly mine” as students gain confidence by extending the function of the code. This activity obviously provides the scaffolding that students need to add small snippets of code and see their effect within a bigger program
Make	Once students are confident in modifying the program that you have created, they can create their own program from scratch, which has similarities with the previous program but that they can design themselves	Design of a new program is an important skill, and should start with planning and trying to construct a suitable algorithm. This is difficult, but does give students an opportunity to be creative and have the satisfaction of making their own program

Scaffolding learning

The reason we designed the PRIMM approach is because we recognised, from our own teaching and others’ research that learners need much more support to understand programming concepts. This means that strategies are needed that scaffold the learning and promote discussion about what is going on in the programs. Working in pairs can also provide students with mutual support which is a form of scaffolding, as well as promoting discussion and an articulation of the problems, around the code.

Spectrum of techniques

Importantly, copying code in from a worksheet does not give us any indication that a student understands what they are typing in, and the processes involved in copying are high on cognitive load. At the other extreme, tinkering or exploring without guidance can be fun, but without an understanding of the concepts can lead to frustration. Other strategies in between these extremes include running and testing code, predicting outcomes of code, tracing code, annotation of code, modifying code, etc. and PRIMM is one approach that combines these.

Physical Computing

Physical computing is an educational context for teaching computer science by using hardware and software to create tangible constructs. Using simple inputs, physical computing takes data from the physical world and manipulates it digitally to create outputs. This is included to increase student engagement by getting pupils interacting with hardware and experience different computer systems.

Marking and Feedback

Within computing lessons, pupils can achieve very different but relevant outcomes. Therefore, pupils' predominant source of feedback is immediate, individually tailored verbal feedback provided by the Teacher. However, alongside this, pupils may be offered alternative forms of feedback to enhance their own learning and progress. These are:

- Self-assessment – pupils are given time to reflect on their work and enhance or debug their work, becoming effective independent learners. They also know their next steps to progress from the given assessment sheets.
- Peer assessment – Pupils receive feedback from fellow pupils to improve their work.
 - Pupils also use 'Pair Programming' where one pupil writes exactly what the other instructs, thus prompting valuable discussion.
- Whole class feedback – if a key teaching point needs addressing for the whole class.
- Access and use of pre-recorded videos to reinforce and reiterate teaching material available to all students.
- Use of hint sheets and videos to extend and challenge pupils

Curriculum Impact

Assessment

In line with the DASP Middle Schools we use a 5-band system which are reported to parents three times a year.

At the end of topics, pupils are asked to feedback and annotate on what they have done to show their understanding. Teachers record bands for each different module where the success criteria for ARE has been decided on as a department. Work is then moderated as a department to ensure consistency.

These are then used to inform the overall band at the end of each term. Online quizzes are also used to assess pupils' vocabulary and retention skills which are then banded. This also adds to a pupils' final assessment band.

Monitoring

Monitoring is undertaken regularly to ensure consistency across the department. This is done through:

- Lesson drop ins once a term with written feedback provided
- Looking at pupil work
- Pupil conferencing
- Looking at data
- Discussion with teachers within the department

Feedback will be given both individually and departmentally so that we can continue to progress as a department.