



We are Computer Scientists

All pupils at Woodlands Academy will experience a wide-ranging computing curriculum to support them in understanding the digital world around them in a safe and meaningful way.

Intent

At Woodlands, we aim to develop children as lifelong learners who have the confidence, knowledge and skills to use new and emerging technologies safely and effectively. Through our Computing curriculum, pupils build a secure understanding of the three key pillars of computing: Computer Science, Information Technology and Digital Literacy. We are committed to developing responsible, competent and safe users of technology, with online safety embedded throughout all aspects of learning. Computing is used to enhance and extend learning across the wider curriculum, increasing engagement and motivation while encouraging independence, collaboration and problem-solving skills.

Implementation

At Woodlands, our Computing curriculum utilises the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) Teach Computing resources. Our spiral curriculum approach ensures that key knowledge and skills are revisited regularly and developed in greater depth as pupils progress through school. By building on prior learning, children gain an increasingly secure understanding of computing concepts and become confident in applying their skills in a range of contexts.

Computing is taught weekly across all year groups from Years 1 to 6. Each year group studies six carefully sequenced units that cover the three strands of the computing curriculum: Computer Science, Information Technology and Digital Literacy. The units include Computing Systems and Networks, Data and Information, Creating Media, and two Programming units, allowing pupils to develop a broad and balanced understanding of computing while continually building on previously taught knowledge and skills.

Online safety is a key priority at Woodlands, and all children have an individual username and password and are trained to stay safe online at school and at home. We have a termly focus on online safety throughout the school through whole school assemblies and other activities.

Our teachers use the high-quality resources provided by the NCCE, including detailed lesson plans, presentations, practical activities and assessment materials. This ensures a consistent approach to teaching and learning across the school and supports teachers in delivering engaging, purposeful and challenging lessons.

We believe that computing skills are essential for success in the modern world and therefore provide opportunities for pupils to apply their learning across the wider curriculum. Links are made with subjects such as Mathematics, Science, Design and Technology, and PSHE, enabling children to use technology creatively, develop problem-solving skills, analyse information, and communicate effectively.

Impact

The impact of our Computing curriculum at Woodlands is seen in pupils who are confident, capable and responsible digital citizens. Through carefully planned learning and ongoing assessment, children develop secure knowledge of key computing concepts and can apply their skills across a range of contexts.

Pupils demonstrate their understanding through practical tasks, discussions and digital projects. They develop a strong awareness of online safety, knowing how to use technology responsibly and how to seek help if they encounter problems online.

As they progress through the school, pupils become competent programmers who can design, create, test and debug programs. They also gain confidence in using a range of digital tools to create, communicate and present information effectively.

By the time they leave Woodlands, pupils are equipped with the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world and are well prepared for the next stage of their education.