Computing at Hyde Park Schools

Intent

At Hyde Park Schools, we know that computing is a vital part of children's education in an ever-changing world. It provides them with opportunities to develop a range of ways in which they can explore their world, share and express their thoughts and ideas, whilst learning about and making links with a wide spectrum of different types of information. Computing contributes to children's personal development in creativity, independence, judgement and self-reflection. Moreover, it enables pupils to explore their natural sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around them and therefore links strongly to our school values. The focus is in developing digitally literate individuals who are able to mitigate the pitfalls and hazards that may present to them in today's digital world through an understanding of the technology used and being able to manipulate this through basic skills, computing science and safe practise.

The computing curriculum will develop children's abilities in coding and in error correction of their own and others' code through block code coding apps. It will also develop the children's skills in basic computer use through the use of word processing, data handling, presentation, email and graphics handling applications. Additionally, it provides opportunities to learn through modelling and simulation. Children will develop a digital intelligence by the explicit teaching of e-safety that enables understanding of the motives behind, and mitigation of, potential online threats. They will also develop critical evaluation of information that is accessed.

Implementation

At Hyde Park Schools, we teach a coherently sequenced procedural and non-procedural knowledge-based computing curriculum, which allows children to practise the skills needed as well as providing them with opportunities to practise and develop mastery in the key processes of computing. This starts with a curriculum based on the areas of the 2021 EYFS Framework. From year 1 it is aligned to the national curriculum and is taught through discrete skills lessons teaching basic skills which are then utilised through activities in other subject areas such as the foundation subjects and writing and maths. This allows children to embed their skills until they are second nature. Each year group has a progressive computing curriculum, building year on year starting with a basic skills unit and every year has an e-safety unit to compete building upon previous year's work. The children are given constructive verbal feedback and next steps, with further opportunities to improve their work and ensure that their skills are being developed. Work is shared with peers at different stages in the year to allow for peer evaluation.

Impact

Pupils' basic skills are assessed at entry and any shortfalls addressed in initial sessions. App skills are assessed against given tasks set within computing and other areas of the curriculum. In digital literacy and e-safety the children are assessed continuously during computer use with reminders throughout the year. The use of computing is recommended for home learning and the option of using computing for this is always given.

Progress

Children follow a progression aligned to the national curriculum objectives and skills building on those taught in EYFS and key stage 1 and building these further in key stage 2 to prepare them for key stage 3. These objectives are underpinned by a progression of both procedural and non-procedural knowledge indicators. These enable teachers and children to plan and track progress throughout the key stage. Each unit is assessed through observations, quizzes and applied use within other subjects.

Cross Curricular Links

Computing is used across most areas of the curriculum. It is used regularly by teachers to enrich learning by accessing resources in all areas of learning. Children will be expected to use the acquired skills in every area of the curriculum. It links readily to Writing, maths, science, reading and foundation subjects alike.

Local Links

At Hyde Park Schools school we believe that it is important, wherever possible to link to our locality and community. Technology encourages wider exploration but we are fostering links with local specialist technology education establishments and other IT based businesses and Plymouth Library Services.