

The aim of our computing curriculum is to allow pupils to become masters of technology, good digital citizens and creative, lifelong learners that can independently make sensible choices with the technology they use. We hope to inspire all pupils at Elmlea Schools Trust by showcasing the range of opportunities and potential that exists within the ever-changing world of computing. Pupils are encouraged to challenge themselves within our lessons by exploring the boundaries of what is possible with the technology available to them.

All staff are enthusiastic about embedding computing across the whole curriculum to make learning creative and accessible to all. The computing curriculum at Elmlea is wide-ranging and encompasses a multitude of technologies which we incorporate within our three core strands. These are: Digital Skills, Digital programming, and Digital Making. These areas lay the foundations for children to effectively and confidently utilise a range of programs to prepare them for the ever-changing digital world. Our curriculum is designed so that our key strands can be weaved throughout all subjects so that projects can be presented in formats to show the wide range of potential uses for different technologies and how they can be applied successfully to achieve goals in different contexts. We want our pupils to be fluent with a range of tools to best express their understanding and hope by Upper Key Stage 2, children have the independence and confidence to choose the most appropriate tool for specific tasks. Online safety is presented discreetly to pupils within a circle time each term so that a range of specific topics are covered appropriately. However, staff are encouraged to maximise those moments where links can be made to being a good digital citizen when they can.

Computing units are planned in each term to allow children a weekly computing lesson. Although some units require discreet lessons, many are linked to other topics which increases the flexibility and profile of the subject. These are taught by teachers who have received training on the aspects that they teach, and the curriculum overview has been developed alongside that of MRPICT.com. This resource provides a great foundation for ensuring children are given a wide range of experiences within computing and thus enabling them to become creators rather than consumers. However, with computing relying on technology, we have adapted to ensure it matches up with what we can provide. Computing lessons are planned with differentiation in mind so that capable children can be stretched to maintain the challenge for them but also to ensure that learners make progress. This is done through how to guides or support sheets that can be used independently or with the support of peers. We are fortunate enough to have access to an ICT suite, iPads and some laptops too, which gives us plenty of opportunity to be even more creative with specific areas of the curriculum. For each unit, children are introduced to the appropriate vocabulary at the beginning of the lesson, and this continues to build so that familiarity and understanding increases. These are also promoted on displays in the ICT suite.

Within school, we look to promote computing outside of the lessons that are taught. We have been running a Digital Leader Programme for the past few years which requires pupils to apply, be interviewed and subsequently selected for the role. Their main roles are to be a support to others within the classroom-based lessons. To achieve this, they attend sessions to explore and troubleshoot technology that is being used in lessons as well as looking into potential new technologies. The children also take a lead role in Safer Internet Day and present assemblies across the Trust. We even went on a trip to the Apple store to take part in some specific workshops. Elmlea Schools Trust also have their own podcast which provides opportunity for children to share areas of interest to them. These are then edited by our pupils and shared amongst our wider community. We currently host a weekly STEM club in school to provide further opportunities for our pupils with a passion for the subject.