Curriculum Intent – Computing and Digital Citizenship

Intent

The aim of computing and digital citizenship at Saint Veronica's is to stimulate the children's interest and understanding in the digital world, coding and the way that computing has been instrumental influencing modern society. Through lessons linked to digital citizenship we teach children how to keep themselves safe online, how to understand their responsibilities towards others in the digital world (i.e. how to communicate courteously and efficiently) how to deal with and avoid cyber bullying and how to use of blogs, vlogs and social media constructively.

In computing, children learn to understand that the internet is a shared resource, to distinguish between resources that are given for free, resources that require acknowledgement of authorship and those that are paid. This prepares them for High School and university where they will need to be able to draw on secondary sources when producing their own work, acknowledging the authors in question.

We also teach the children about the state of the art of current computing hardware and software and how to make best use of emerging and new technologies to improve their own lives while understand the impact that such technologies can have, both positively and negatively, on our common home; the planet earth.

We also teach children how to research information, to make use of several sources, to recognise trusted sources such as the BBC, and understand the different between fact and opinion in order to make their own minds up about the world they live in.

Above all, we teach that the digital world is a place of fabulous opportunities but any exploration of it must be tempered with an understanding that the freedom of information we enjoy in this country, allows all opinions to be expressed; both positive and negative and how they can distinguish one from another themselves.

'We use opportunities to explore and learn' – our curriculum is a purposeful and memorable experience with opportunities for *all* children to develop as individuals; to be confident and resilient learners by promoting high expectations and standards in Reading, Writing, Maths and all subjects.

Our computing curriculum is aimed at giving all pupils the skills and knowledge to become confident programmers, confident users of ICT and skilled researchers. We want children to ask questions and to be able to make connections through other subjects; making use of the internet as a primary source of material in all areas of the curriculum. Thus they will learn about the events of the past and what changes have come from this, they will be able to learn about new technologies, be able to sort scientifically, practice maths and grammar skills, and access and search texts by classic authors using electronic devices. We aim to teach all children to code, making use of a variety of different languages, some visual and some text based, as well as learning how to create, populate and interrogate databases, and represent data in a variety of different ways.

By developing these computing skills, the children will become more confident in being critical thinkers and developing their ability to create their own opinions based on evidence and interpretation, and so enhance their learning and the presentation of their work in all areas of the curriculum.

'Never overlooking the needs of others' – our curriculum is rooted in principles of Catholic social teaching (as per the teachings of Pope Francis); encouraging *all* children to have high aspirations and make positive contributions to their community and wider global society, becoming advocates for social justice.

Through digital citizenship and access to the internet the children will learn about the ever-changing world. The curriculum aims to teach the children how to find information effectively, how to community it both to their class-mates and the wider community, and how to rally support for charities and other worthwhile causes. Therefore, the aim is to create children who can become advocates for social justice and understand the difference they could make.

'Secure in the love of Jesus' – our curriculum is child centred; providing opportunities for SMSC from which *all* children learn and develop a range of skills which they will need in order to succeed in life.

The children will have many opportunities to develop understanding of the moral, social and cultural aspects of what it means to be a global citizen. They are taught how to report issues that concern them, how to communicate with courtesy and fair-mindedness, and how to use digital technology to make the world a better place.

Through the computing curriculum children develop an understanding of how coding underpins every aspect of our society today, and develop critical thinking skills, problem solving (particularly through debugging their code) as well as developing fundamental ICT skills in accessing a wider range of digital devices like computers, printers, tablets and e-readers.

'We recognise that each one of us is special' – our curriculum is respectful, *all* children respect themselves, each other and people of all faiths race and gender. The curriculum gives *each pupil* an opportunity to find their strengths and interests.

Through digital citizenship children are taught that we are able to make a difference, irrespective of faith, gender or race. By understanding about the impact of that they have on people, and people have on all aspects of society, we want children to understand about the world and how people's views are communicated today and the impact these view can have. . The curriculum will also support children in learning about their own identity and to learn about and appreciate the similarities and differences we all have.

'Respecting everything God had made' – our curriculum promotes stewardship. We show humility, care and respect for all living things.

Through the use of the internet in supporting all aspects of learning, computing supports the children's developing understanding of their own roles as stewards of the earth, of how they can become advocates for the sustainability of the earth, and how current and future technologies can address issues such as over-population, starvation and climate change