



Computing

OUR CORE AIM FOR COMPUTING

To enable our children to develop their computing skills in order to use technology purposefully and safely, and to provide them with the knowledge and abilities that they will need throughout their lives.

What do computing lessons look like at Swiss Gardens Primary School?

Children's computing lessons are not timetabled on a weekly basis. Instead, teachers identify when each area of computing will be taught across the year, creating themed units of learning (sometimes a week long, sometimes longer and linked to other curriculum areas), which are taught in blocks across the academic year.

Computing is not only taught in discrete units of work but is used to enhance and support other curriculum areas too.

In computing lessons, we would expect any observers to see:

- Talk and questioning
- Varied resources, depending upon the learning taking place each lesson- this could be ranging from Beebots to iPads/Laptops.
- Teachers modelling in order to support children.
- Curiosity for and desire to explore the digital world
- Raising of questions
- Conversations
- Explicit exposure to new vocabulary
- Awe and wonder
- Perseverance when faced with a challenge
- An interest in and awareness of how to use technology creatively and purposefully
- Learning in line with the age-expectations set out by the national curriculum in conjunction with our school progression document

What does the children's work look like in computing?

Most work is stored on the school server or on the iPads. Some work is printed and put into books when it is appropriate.

Some work allows children to practise a new skill they have learnt by exploring and experimenting, whilst other work will demonstrate children utilising skills they have previously or recently learnt and using it for a purpose.

Throughout the lessons children are provided with verbal feedback from the teacher and LSA. This feedback will provide the children with support and advice to enable children to make progress and gives an opportunity to praise children's successes.

How do the teachers plan for computing?

First and foremost, the teachers are always striving to deliver – and for children to achieve – age appropriate expectations, adhering to national curriculum requirements in conjunction with the school's computing progression document.

It is vital that computing is planned as a progressive subject throughout the children's time at the school, building on and making links with previous learning. To ensure this, teachers study previous teachers' highlighted progression statements to ensure no gaps are left unaddressed and to build upon what has gone before. With teachers passing on a summary of prior learning year on year, right through the school, staff have a clear overview of what the children already understand and what they should learn next. Computing is planned discretely, where appropriate, or with links to other subjects, where appropriate. Our topic approach ensures that where links can be made to other subjects they are.

Computing is always planned in the best way to enable the best learning and these decisions are made by the year team teachers, under the guidance of the computing subject leader, as necessary.

There is a long-term overview of planned units of learning for the year to ensure full coverage of the learning, with the year team agreeing which computing learning will be taught and when in the term. The medium-term plan then details finer specifics and the short-term plan sets out the fine details of the learning that must occur, the activities and tasks through which the learning will occur, the adult roles within the lessons, the key vocabulary focus, etc.

The school has set planning documents used by staff throughout the school for long, medium and short term planning.

How does the school know whether children are making good progress and attaining high standards in computing?

The computing subject leader (supported by SLT as necessary) monitors provision, progression and attainment e.g. via planning check-ins, lesson check-ins (observations), book looks, pupil interviews, teacher interviews.

What happens if a child is finding computing difficult?

We use a "mastery" approach to computing, which means we are always striving for the vast majority of children to attain the same age-expected standards of learning at the same rate as each other. However, some children find computing learning more challenging than others. For these children, the subject is made accessible in its very nature of varied teaching approaches, with plenty of discussion to which all children may contribute. Adult support and scaffolding is provided to ensure each child's computing understanding is still effectively shared, in order for adults to properly know each child's true ability in this subject.

What happens if a child is achieving very high standards in computing ?

Where children are attaining particularly highly in computing teachers extend their knowledge further through higher level questioning and/or task expectation. The teachers deepen these children's knowledge so that their learning does not "stand still".

How do opportunities for computing extend beyond each year group's lessons?

Computing skills and abilities are also experienced regularly away from discrete computing lessons as they are used to enhance and support learning in other curriculum areas.

Computing is often used at home as we have several home learning online programmes to support learning in other areas, e.g. Times Table Rock Stars, Numbots, MyMaths.

Is there anything else parents can do to support the learning in computing?

Children may continue to learn about computing at home as well as in school. There are numerous web links and subscriptions that parents can access to engage in computing learning at home. Whether this be to learn a particular 'computing skill' or to use computing as a tool to enhance and support other areas of learning.

The website below has some useful activities and information related to computing at home

<https://www.barefootcomputing.org/homelearning>

Who to contact

If you have any questions you would like to ask about computing, please do not hesitate to contact the following members of staff, or your child's class teacher or the subject leader:

Miss Knee Curriculum Leader jknee@sgprimary.co.uk