

Computing and Online Safety Policy

St George's School



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– Chair of Governors

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Intent of Computing and Online Safety at St George's

In line with the 2014 National Curriculum for Computing, our aim is to provide a high-quality computing education which equips children to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world.

By the time they leave St George's, children will have gained key knowledge and skills in the three main areas of the computing curriculum: computer science (programming and understanding how digital systems work), information technology (using computer systems to store, retrieve and send information) and digital literacy (evaluating digital content and using technology safely and respectfully).

Through our planning for Computing and Online Safety we aim to:

- Provide a relevant, challenging and enjoyable curriculum for Computing and Online Safety for all students differentiated from the National Curriculum to meet the needs of the students.
- To enable students to have control over their environment through the safe use of electricity, switches, communication devices and a range of technological devices and everyday equipment.
- Embed Computing and Online Safety across a curriculum that acknowledges its contribution to learning in all other subjects.
- Support all staff to make effective use of Online Safety at a professional level.
- Enable students to use a wide range of technology including physical computing in experimental, imaginative and exploratory ways ensuring it plays a crucial role in delivering a STEAM approach to Education.
- Ensure that staff and students understand the capabilities, advantages, risks and limitations of Computing and Online Safety and consider the implications of its development for society.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming an increasingly important part of education, employment and everyday life. At St George's School, we recognise the potential benefits of AI technologies to support learning, communication, creativity and independence whilst also understanding the associated risks and responsibilities.

Use of AI in School

- Students may be introduced to age and ability-appropriate AI tools to support learning, creativity, research and communication.
- AI will be used to enhance teaching and learning and will not replace professional judgement, teacher expertise or personalised support.
- Staff may use approved AI tools to support planning, resource creation, assessment and administrative tasks, ensuring that all outputs are reviewed for accuracy, suitability and accessibility.
- Students will be taught that AI-generated content may not always be accurate, reliable or unbiased and should be checked against trusted sources.

Online Safety and AI

As part of the Online Safety curriculum, students will learn:

- What artificial intelligence is and how it is used in everyday life.
- The benefits and limitations of AI technologies.

- How to use AI tools safely, respectfully and responsibly.
- The importance of protecting personal information when using AI platforms.
- How to identify misinformation, deepfakes and AI-generated content online.
- The ethical implications of AI, including fairness, bias, copyright and intellectual property.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff using AI technologies must:

- Follow school safeguarding, data protection, GDPR and acceptable use policies.
- Ensure that confidential, personal or sensitive information is not entered into public AI systems.
- Critically evaluate AI-generated content before using it with students or sharing it with others.
- Use AI in a manner that promotes inclusion, accessibility and positive educational outcomes.

Monitoring and Review

The use of AI within the school will be regularly monitored by the Computing Lead, Online Safety Lead, Senior Leadership Team and Governors. Emerging technologies, guidance and legislation will be reviewed to ensure that the school's approach to AI remains safe, ethical and effective.

Implementation of Computing and Online Safety at St George's

Students should learn Computing and Online Safety skills that enable them to succeed across all areas of the curriculum. A STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) approach is integral to this with students using programming and physical computing to solve real-life situations.

Students will also be confident in using technology for everyday tasks such as communicating, managing and storing information and accessing the community. In Online Safety students will also understand the law and how to keep themselves safe. Teaching will adapt to students' needs and aspirations. Students should have ample opportunity to practise and apply this.

A long term plan is provided that ensures students develop in line with the National Curriculum at their own pace as they move through the school. Teachers are required to use their knowledge of each student to ensure progression of skills. **There is a separate ICT curriculum for students working on the Immersive Pathway.**

In Key Stage 5, students may choose Computing as an Option. This is delivered through an unaccredited pathway and will follow National Curriculum guidelines. Across the Key Stage, students are encouraged to use computing skills to record work, access the community, and help them with day-to-day tasks throughout their curriculum work. Students will also have opportunities to further their STEAM skillset.

All students in Key Stage 5 are taught elements of Online Safety at least once each term at a level appropriate to their needs and understanding. This may be as part of a different curriculum lesson, for example RSHE.

Impact of Computing and Online Safety at St George's

- The vast majority of students meet or exceed their expected progress in Computing and Online Safety
- Students are well prepared for the next stage of their education or life journey
- Students become IT literate, with transferable skills they can take with them into future education and the world of work.
- Students can use technology to problem solve

Contribution of Computing and Online Safety to teaching in other curriculum areas

Literacy: writing e-mails and letters; researching and presenting information

Numeracy: collecting, entering and interpreting data, measuring and recording information

Science: electronics and circuits; building and programming robots

Foundation Subjects: researching and presenting information on current topics

Art: Digital art, photography, Computer graphics and logos

Recording and Assessment

On-going formative assessment is an integral part of good practice. Its main purpose is to enable the teacher to match work to the abilities and needs of the students and ensure progression in learning.

Computing and Online Safety skills capability should be monitored regularly in relation to the Computing and Online Safety curriculum and the accreditation requirements. Teachers should assess module requirements with reference to students' knowledge, understanding and skills. Other opportunities for assessment will arise from cross-curricular work.

Resources

Smart Board or Prowise display board and computers available in every main classroom and specialist classroom and a computer suite. Laptops and iPads which are timetabled for use by all students. Sets of digital cameras, Beebots, Raspberry Pi, MicroBits, Spike Primes, Sound Beam, immersion room, Firt Tech robotics kits and a 3D printer. All computers around the school are enrolled in Microsoft 365 and have internet access. Non-class based resources for Online Safety and computing are kept in a central store and are available for booking through the Network support staff.

IT Technician Support

The school employs a Network Manager and a Computer Technician whose specific roles relate to the provision of support in IT. This support takes a variety of forms, including:

- supporting lessons using IT equipment in the IT suite and around the school;
- dealing with technical queries relating to software and hardware;
- carrying out all maintenance and repairs or replacement of hardware;

- purchasing and updating equipment and software
- maintaining and monitoring of firewall and filtering systems
- managing system backups and security
- supporting teachers in the use of IT in other curriculum areas;
- supporting admin staff with the use of IT within their roles
- maintaining and updating school-related pages on the school website.

Security

- The Computing technician will be responsible for regularly updating anti-virus software.
- Use of IT and computing will be in line with the school's 'acceptable use policy'. All staff must sign a copy of the school's policy annually.
- Students and parents sign a 'Acceptable Use Policy' form when they enter the school.
- All pupils and parents will be aware of the school rules for responsible use of IT and computing and the internet and will understand the consequence of any misuse.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This is carried out through classroom observations, learning walks and evidence scrutiny. Planning will be monitored by the Computing and Online Safety leads to ensure it continues to meet National Curriculum guidelines and overseen by SLT. Governors are kept informed of changes made to the Computing and Online Safety Curriculum and are involved in learning walks throughout the year in order to scrutinise lessons, and observe classroom learning environments.

The Online Safety and Computing subject leaders will use specially-allocated time for carrying out the vital task of reviewing samples of the students' work and for visiting classes to observe the teaching of Online Safety and Computing.

Staff training

Needs will be met by:

- Arranging training for individuals as required;
- Annual online safety training, to include professional conduct and safer working practices regarding technologies such as Twitter, Facebook, Blogging etc.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher & Governors will:

- Monitor the implementation of the Computing Policy.
- Ensure there is a long term plan that details coverage and progression.
- With the subject co-ordinator, monitor teaching, learning and standards in Computing.
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The Computing Lead and Online Safety Lead will:

- Support teachers with planning and use of resources.
- Undertake appropriate professional development to ensure an up to date knowledge and report to staff.
- With the headteacher, monitor teaching, learning and standards in Computing and Online Safety.
- Provide a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school by writing the Computing Action Plan and Online Safety Action Plan and updating the policy.

Teachers will:

Use the Long Term Plan for Computing to plan opportunities for all students to develop a broad range of appropriate computing skills. It is the responsibility of each class teacher to ensure that their class is taught all elements of the Computing and Online Safety curriculum as set out in the National Curriculum programme of study.

- Plan opportunities for the relevant and creative use of computing across the curriculum on an ongoing basis.
- Plan for differentiation so that all students develop computing skills, taking into account the individual needs of students. This includes SEN, higher ability students and those with less access to computers at home.
- Ensure the appropriate time is allocated to discrete teaching of Computing and Computer Programming.
- Report pupils achievement in Computing and Online Safety in the annual report to parents
- Follow health and safety guidelines and the 'Acceptable Use of ICT' policy.

All staff will:

- Ensure all adults and students handle and use equipment in an appropriate way.
- Follow health and safety guidelines and the policies listed below.
- make themselves aware of legislation relating to the use of Online Safety and computing, including copyright and data protection issues.