Introduction

This policy document sets out the school's aims, principles and strategies for the delivery of the Computing curriculum and Information and Communications Technology (ICT). It was reviewed during the Summer Term of 2025, and presented to staff for discussion. Other references can be found in the Health and Safety, Assessment and Equal Opportunities Policies, Artificial Intelligence Policy and the Staff Online Safety and Computing Acceptable Use Policy.

Children use their computing knowledge and skills to find, explore, analyse, exchange and present ideas. They learn how to employ ICT to use information responsibly and creatively. The use of ICT promotes initiative and independent learning; skills vital to the modern world, and children need to make informed judgments about where and when to use ICT safely and to best effect.

Implementation

The school, in line with the National Curriculum (NC) for Computing, aims to ensure that all pupils:
- can understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation;
- can analyse problems in computational terms, and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs in order to solve such problems;
- can evaluate and apply information technology, including new or unfamiliar technologies, analytically to solve problems;
- are responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology.

The NC requirements for Computing will be taught through discrete lessons and ICT skills will be consolidated and used to support learning in other subjects across the curriculum where appropriate.

Each classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard (IWB) and one stand-alone PC. Each year group has access to trollies containing laptops and iPads.

Teachers employ a range of strategies, including:
- demonstrating to the whole class/group using the IWB
- discussion with the whole class/group
- individual or paired working
- collaborative group work
- encouraging pupils to demonstrate new skills to others

All children have equal access to ICT (see Equal Ops policy). Particular needs are supported when and where necessary.

Scheme of Work

There is an overarching curriculum overview for Computing outlining learning from Year 3 to Year 6. This ensures comprehensive coverage against the NC for Computing. Planning for Computing is also written on a medium term basis and gives details of each unit of work for every term. These plans define what will be taught and ensure an appropriate balance and distribution of work across each term. They also show specific learning objectives. Progressive key skills have been developed by the Computing Subject Leader. The Curriculum overview and key knowledge, skills and understanding document can be found in the Computing subject folder on the Z: Drive.

Some units, such as online safety, are taught discretely. However, the concepts taught in online safety are continuously reinforced throughout the year. Other units are taught through a combination of discrete teaching and appropriate cross-curricular links to termly topics as appropriate. For example, the expectation is that some Microsoft Office key skills and laptop 'fundamentals' are taught through cross curricular work; e.g Word big write publishing, Y3 rainforest fact files etc.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

All use of AI technologies in Computing will be through the tools approved by the school only. (See AI policy). Every use of AI must be checked with human input to professionally assess the accuracy, validity and appropriateness of all AI generated content, with all staff engaging with these tools responsibly. As part of the school's online safety curriculum, students will be taught appropriate ethics around the use of AI - including potential benefits and risks - along with strategies for critically evaluating AI-produced content.

Assessment and Recording

The Computing Subject Leader is responsible for ensuring coverage and progression of the units of work and that the appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding are systematically planned, taught and assessed throughout every year group.

Computing is assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the year by the class teacher. The children are assessed against the key skills, knowledge and understanding that covers the statutory expectations within the NC. Throughout the academic year, the class teacher makes a summative assessment of what each child can do in Computing, making a 'best fit' judgement for each child against the criteria in the whole school assessment tracker. All children are aware of the learning objective for each lesson and are encouraged, where appropriate, to participate in peer and self assessment.

Resources

The Network Manager provides additional ICT technical support to staff and is continuously improving and developing Harewood's ICT infrastructure.

A full list of hardware and software can be supplied on request by the school's Network Manager.

Staff Development

Reviewed: July 2025

The Computing Subject Leader regularly attends courses and network meetings, as required, to keep up to date with new technologies and developments. The Subject Leader also provides training sessions for teachers and teaching assistants on using software/hardware, e.g. interactive whiteboards, word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentations. Staff meetings are regularly held to review and update knowledge, skill levels and to determine future requirements of all staff.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed every three years by the Computing Subject Leader, staff and governors.

Reviewed: July 2025