

St. Martin's Primary School Digital Competency Policy

The Vision

Our children are our future. We are living in a world where computing skills and understanding are an increasingly essential requirement of everyday life and a key element to success. Our children need to be ready and eager to meet this challenge and be equipped with the skills needed to adapt to this rapidly changing environment. To enable this, computing needs to be an embedded aspect of school life, ever present, working behind the scenes, to motivate, facilitate and enhance every aspect of a child's learning.

At St Martin's Primary School our aims are to

- develop a range of computing skills, including digital literacy, computer science and digital citizenship, that learners can apply to their everyday lives today and in years to come
- allow learners the opportunity to choose and use IT creatively in all areas of the curriculum
- allow learners to make connections across different areas of the curriculum
- use computing and IT to raise standards across the curriculum
- develop independent learners through an enquiry based approach
- find new and exciting ways to incorporate computing and IT into learning
- ensure all staff and learners have a clear understanding of how to use IT safely and responsibly
- use IT to promote links with parents and the wider community
- ensure that both staff and learners have readily available access to the latest high quality, reliable technology
- have continued professional development for all staff
- make online safety an integral part of digital learning
- allow learners to think creatively about how to solve problems using IT

Inclusion

The use of technology enhances inclusion of pupils from a wide range of abilities and backgrounds. Children can continue learning from home using online technology, those without computers at home are given access outside of lesson time.

Online safety

St Martin's takes a sensible approach to online safety in which learners are taught how to take advantage of the many uses of the internet safely and sensibly. Project Evolve planning, which has been developed by experts at the UK Safer Internet Centre and South West Grid for Learning, is used to plan and teach online safety lessons across the school throughout the year. Appropriate firewalls and filtering are in place, but children are also taught how to critically evaluate information they find on the internet. They also learn about keeping safe while using a variety of technologies such as email, online discussion, social networking and mobile telephones. We have Pupil Acceptable Use Policies which are relevant to each year group and are shared with our learners at least termly (see [online safety](#) and [year group acceptable use policies](#)). BOOST links are used on the [online website](#) to provide online safety information for parents. Learners have access to a [Google Site](#), which can be accessed through J2e, detailing staying safe online and getting help.