Computing at Our Lady and St. Thomas Catholic Primary School

Part of the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Academy Trust

**Intent Statement:**

At Our Lady and St Thomas Primary school, Computing is an essential part of the curriculum; a subject which is not autonomous, rather interwoven throughout all subject areas. Computing and technology an increasingly significant part of every person’s daily life, and we want our children to be at the forefront of modern technology, with a desire to discover what is out there, with the skills they require for success and safety.

Our Lady and St. Thomas Primary School strives to provide a comprehensive Computing curriculum that equips our students with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in a progressively digital world. We believe that Computing is an integral subject which, not only develops the ability to use and understand technology, but fosters problem-solving, creativity, and critical thinking skills.

Our Computing curriculum provides:

* The skills for children require to have an impact within the digital world.
* Ample guidance to explore the digital world safely and vigilantly, providing the skills to be a responsible digital citizen.
* Opportunities to develop problem solving skills, to be able to analyse and adapt.
* Exploration of digital media, with exposure to differing ideas and opinions to their own, promoting that these differences should be respected.

**Implementation Statement:**

After the implementation of this robust computing curriculum, children at Our Lady and St Thomas will be digitally literate and able to join the rest of the world as a responsible digital citizen. They will be equipped with the skills to knowledge to use technology effectively, effectively and safely. Our mission is that our children are vigilant (recognising that people are not always who they say they are online and being sensible about what they share), sceptical (to question the reliability of sources online) and responsible (understanding the procedures if they are affected negatively online) when entering and exploring the digital world.

To achieve outstanding Computing teaching and learning within our school, we:

- Provide a carefully planned and sequenced curriculum that covers the key aspects of Computing; including computer science, information technology, and digital literacy.

- Ensure that our teaching staff are highly skilled and receive regular professional development to keep up to date with the latest advancements in the field of Computing.

- Incorporate a range of teaching strategies and resources, including hands-on practical tasks, programming activities, and use of educational technology tools, to engage and challenge our students.

- Create a supportive and inclusive learning environment where students feel comfortable experimenting, making mistakes, and collaborating with their peers.

- Promote cross-curricular links, integrating Computing with other subjects, to enhance learning opportunities and show the relevance of Computing in the real world.

- Foster strong partnerships with parents/carers and the wider community, providing opportunities for parents/carers to enhance their own awareness of online safety and keeping their child safe online.

**Impact Statement:**

Our outstanding Computing teaching and learning has resulted in pupils:

- Displaying increased awareness of responsible digital citizenship, practicing ethical behaviour online, and understanding the impact of their digital footprint.

- Developing a deep understanding of computational thinking, logical reasoning, and problem-solving skills that can be applied across different subjects and contexts.

- Acquiring a wide range of digital literacy skills, including confidently using various software applications, understanding online safety and ethical considerations, and applying critical thinking when consuming online content.

- Having the ability to confidently and creatively use computational tools such as programming languages, robotics, and digital media to solve problems and express themselves.

- Demonstrating improved confidence, resilience, and collaboration skills as they engage in open-ended tasks and project-based learning opportunities.