Early Years

Our vision

At St John's Primary School our intention is that our computing curriculum will help our pupils develop a healthy relationship with technology and a greater understanding and knowledge of how the digital world works, including their place as a child growing up in ever changing digital landscape in the North-East of England.

The purpose of our computing curriculum is to enable children to achieve this by understanding how the themes of computer science, digital literacy and digital citizenship can shape their lives. Following these themes, we have identified core knowledge our children need to make informed conclusions about computing.

Intent

We want our children to value and recognise the contributions that technology can make to our society. Our pupils recognise that computing has the power to motivate and inspire learning across the curriculum and beyond into their potential future careers. We aim for our pupils to be creators and innovators not just mere consumers of technology.

At St John's, we build our children's knowledge of computing around three key concepts:
- Computer Science – Pupils develop their coding and programming skills and focus on their computational skills.
- Digital Literacy – Pupils can present their work in different digital formats in all areas of the curriculum.
- Digital Citizenship – Pupils study online safety as a part of planned units and in response to current issues.

Implementation

At St John's we deliver our computing studies through a combination of discretely taught lessons and a Mantle of the Expert approach, this allows us to offer children the chance to learn through relevant contexts whilst also developing their knowledge and skills. This inquiry approach to learning provides powerful learning where our children are driven to think about the application and uses of technology in open situations.

Careful consideration was taken to ensure the computing concepts are mapped out on a half-termly basis, using a spiral curriculum approach to gaining knowledge and skills in the three core areas of computing.

Our developed curriculum and method of delivery enables children to learn and progress in computing in four ways:

1. Through refining our core knowledge, children will be able to know more and remember more of their taught computing through understanding more.

2. Children are able to work on the tools and techniques of learning about computing and then develop skills to apply them in different digital situations.
3. Through three concepts listed above, children can build on their understanding across their time at St John's.
4. We enhance elements of our computer science curriculum using LEGO education, which motivates and engages pupils.
5. Through the acquisition of appropriate language and vocabulary.