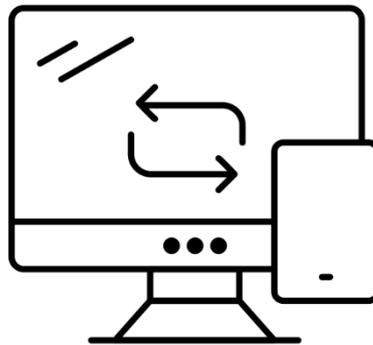# St Gregory's Catholic Primary School

'Loving and Learning'

The St Gregory's Curriculum

Computing

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Catholic Social Teaching

Participation. Human Dignity, Rights and Responsabilités,

Catholic School Pupil Profile

Discerning. Curious. Wise. Active, Hopeful, Learned,

Curriculum Intent for Physical Education

At St. Gregory's Primary School, we believe that Computing education is a powerful tool for nurturing not only digital literacy but also a strong Catholic faith in our students. Our Computing program is designed to empower them with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly, understand the capabilities of technology, and prepare for a future where technology plays a central role.

Key Objectives:

Digital Literacy in a Faithful Context: We integrate Catholic values into our Computing curriculum, teaching students to use digital technology responsibly, ethically, and in alignment with our faith. Lessons include discussions on digital ethics and responsible online behaviour.

Online Safety: We prioritise online safety education. Students learn how to protect themselves and others in the digital realm, recognizing that being a good digital citizen is an extension of being a good Catholic citizen.

Understanding Technology: Our program ensures that students comprehend what a computer is, how it works, and what it can do. This foundational knowledge includes computer components, software, and basic programming concepts.

Computer Science Skills: We introduce students to computer science principles, promoting problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity. They learn coding and programming, which are essential skills in the digital age.

Information Technology: Students gain proficiency in using various software applications and digital tools for educational, creative, and productive purposes. They understand how technology can enhance learning and communication.

Faith-Infused Projects: Students engage in faith-based technology projects, using digital tools to explore and express their Catholic faith creatively. These projects foster a deeper connection between technology and spirituality.

Preparing for the Future: We equip students with the skills they need for a technology-driven future. This includes exposure to emerging technologies and concepts like artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data privacy.

Digital Responsibility: We emphasize the importance of being responsible stewards of technology. Students learn about environmental considerations related to electronics and digital sustainability.

Critical Thinking: We encourage critical thinking and discernment, helping students evaluate digital content and sources, discerning what aligns with their faith and values.

Faith and Technology Integration: We explore how technology can enhance faith experiences, such as virtual pilgrimages, digital prayer resources, and online community building.

In summary, the Computing curriculum at St. Gregory's Primary School is designed to empower our students with digital literacy, computer science skills, and information technology knowledge while nurturing their strong Catholic faith. We prepare them to be responsible, ethical, and faithful digital explorers who are well-equipped for the technology-driven world ahead.

Curriculum Implementation for Computing

EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage): Exploring Digital Tools with Mini Mash

In the Early Years, our primary focus is on introducing young learners to technology in a safe and playful manner, fostering their curiosity and basic digital literacy skills.

Implementation:

Mini Mash Exploration: Early Years students begin their journey by exploring Mini Mash, an age-appropriate platform. They engage in interactive activities and games that introduce them to the world of technology.

Hands-On Learning: Activities include touch screen interaction, simple mouse control, and keyboard familiarity, helping children develop basic motor and digital skills.

Digital Awareness: Students are introduced to the concept of technology in their daily lives, such as tablets, smartphones, and computers, emphasizing their usefulness and relevance.

KS1 (Key Stage 1) Teach Computing Program and Introduction to Purple Mash

In Key Stage 1, students transition from exploration to understanding the role of technology in everyday life and basic digital safety principles.

Implementation:

Teach Computing Program: Students use a structured program to learn about technology in daily life. They explore the functions of various devices and applications, promoting digital awareness.

Introduction to Purple Mash: As they progress, students begin using Purple Mash, a versatile platform. They engage in activities that teach coding fundamentals, create music, stories, and art digitally, and learn about online safety.

Online Safety: Lessons on safe online practices begin, teaching students about personal information protection, recognizing and reporting online risks, and treating others with kindness and respect online.

KS2 (Key Stage 2): Developing Digital Skills and Literacy

In Key Stage 2, the focus shifts towards developing more advanced digital skills, including coding, while continuing to reinforce online safety and exploring a wide range of computing topics.

Implementation:

Progressive Coding: Students learn coding skills through a structured curriculum that evolves as they advance through the years. This includes block-based coding, text-based programming, and algorithmic thinking.

Advanced Topics: As students mature, they delve into topics like Game Creator, Animation, and creating quizzes, allowing them to apply coding skills to creative and practical projects.

Online Safety Continuation: Online safety remains a central theme, with annual updates to address evolving digital challenges. Students learn about responsible social media use, digital etiquette, and cyberbullying prevention.

Digital Literacy: Lessons focus on enhancing digital literacy, including critical thinking, information evaluation, and understanding technology's role in society.

Preparation for the Future: The curriculum prepares students for a technology-driven future, with a focus on adapting to emerging technologies and developing a growth mindset in relation to digital skills.

Cross-Curricular Integration: Computing concepts are integrated into other subjects, reinforcing their practical application and relevance.

Assessment and Evaluation: Continuous assessment, project-based learning, and real-world application of skills are integral to the program. Students are encouraged to reflect on their digital journeys, set goals, and demonstrate their understanding through creative digital projects.

By implementing this comprehensive Computing curriculum, St. Gregory's Primary School aims to equip students with digital literacy, coding proficiency, and responsible digital citizenship, ensuring they are well-prepared to thrive in a technology-dominated world while upholding the values of Catholic faith.

Curriculum Impact for Computing

At St. Gregory's Primary School, our Computing curriculum aims to leave a transformative impact on our students, equipping them with essential digital skills, fostering responsible digital citizenship, and enriching their faith journey while instilling a love for technology.

Impact on Children:

Online Safety: Our students graduate with a deep understanding of online safety. They can identify and respond to online risks, safeguarding themselves and others in the digital realm.

Digital Literacy: Graduates are digitally literate, able to navigate a wide range of digital tools and platforms with confidence, and critically evaluate online information.

Coding Proficiency: Students develop coding skills to a high standard. They are equipped with problem-solving and algorithmic thinking abilities, ready to tackle real-world challenges.

Tech Positives and Negatives: Our program ensures students are not only aware of the positive aspects of technology but also understand potential pitfalls and the importance of ethical use.

Healthy Tech Relationships: Graduates maintain a healthy relationship with technology. They know when and how to use it responsibly, balancing screen time with other activities for physical and mental well-being.

Technology and Faith: Students learn how to use technology to deepen their faith. They explore digital resources for prayer, scripture study, and connecting with faith communities online.

Enjoyment and Engagement: Our students enjoy using technology as a tool for learning, creativity, and self-expression. They see technology as a source of enjoyment and growth.

Empowerment: Graduates are empowered to use technology for positive change in their lives and communities, recognizing its potential as a force for good.

Digital Citizenship: They graduate as responsible digital citizens who demonstrate empathy, respect, and kindness in their online interactions.

Lifelong Learning: Our program instills a passion for lifelong learning, encouraging students to adapt to evolving technology and continue exploring its possibilities.

Cross-Curricular Integration: Students apply their computing skills across subjects, enhancing their understanding and application of technology in various contexts.

Faith Integration: Graduates recognize the role of technology in their faith journey, using it to deepen their spirituality, access religious resources, and connect with their Catholic community.

Critical Thinking: They develop critical thinking skills, enabling them to discern credible sources, evaluate digital content, and make informed decisions in the digital age.

In conclusion, the St. Gregory's Primary School Computing program aims to empower students with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to thrive in a digital world. They leave with a strong sense of online safety, digital literacy, coding proficiency, a balanced tech relationship, and the ability to use technology to enhance their faith journey. Most importantly, they graduate with a genuine enjoyment of technology and the belief that it can be a powerful tool for personal growth, learning, and making a positive impact in the world.