QUEEN'S PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

COMPUTING POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This policy sets out Queen's Park Primary School's aims, principles and strategies for the delivery of the new Computing curriculum. It will form the basis for the development of Computing in the school over the next three years.

WHAT DOES COMPUTING COVER?

It is essential that our pupils can take advantage of Computing's opportunities and they understand their effects.

In our school Computing includes computers, programmable toys, audio and video recorders, temperature sensors and probes, light and noise sensors, digital cameras and interactive whiteboards.

OUR SCHOOL VISION FOR COMPUTING IS THAT -

All children will be confident and effective users of Computing technology in our rapidly changing society.

WE STRIVE TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION BY:

- Meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum through schemed planning and helping all children to achieve their highest possible standards of achievement.

- Presenting Computing as a creative and fascinating process in which children are encouraged to use their own initiative, imagination, reasoning and investigative skills.

- Helping all children to become autonomous users of Computing both as a learning resource and a discipline in its own right.

- Helping all children to evaluate the benefits of Computing and its impact on society.

- Celebrating success in the use of Computing through the regular display of their work around school, and the positive attitude of staff.

THE CURRICULUM

The national curriculum 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.

Queen's Park bases its scheme of work on the Rising Stars SwitchedOn programme.

Computing has been fully integrated in all revised subject policies.

Curriculum coordinators regularly identify additional software required to aid in the delivery and integration of Computing within other core and foundation subjects and show this in their action plans.

The school's planning and each year group's short term lesson planning ensures progression in Computing in four ways –

- The progressive development of pupils' skills, knowledge and understanding

- Breadth of Computing applications

- Increased complexity of contexts in which Computing is applied

- The growing autonomy of the pupil in their learning

E-SAFETY
All children will be taught the importance of keeping themselves and others safe whilst using the internet and associated technologies. Each year group will adopt an age appropriate approach to ensure that children's understanding of E-Safety develops as they progress through the school. The school approach will adapt and evolve in line with new technologies and opportunities.

ASSESSMENT
Computing follows the school policy on recording, assessment and reporting. At the end of each unit the children are assessed. Teachers will use this information to inform end of year levels.

Samples of children's work are kept in their individual storage space, on video or through photography where appropriate.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Children may switch on computers and other electronic devices with adult supervision but should not be given the responsibility of plugging equipment into the mains supply.

Food and drink should not be consumed near the Computing equipment or anywhere in the Computing Suite.

It is the responsibility of staff to ensure that the classroom equipment is stored securely and that their class or they leave the Computing Suite tidy after use. Staff should ensure that the children are seated at the computers comfortably and be aware of the dangers of continuous use (e.g. eye/wrist strain etc.). Positioning of whiteboards and whiteboard resolutions follow the Health and Safety Executive and Becta guidelines.

For Internet and E-mail safety please see the Responsible Internet Use policy.

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones are not used as part of the Computing curriculum. Queen's Park Primary School does not encourage children bringing in mobile phones. If they are essential for use after school phones must be switched off at all times and stored in the class safes. The school does not accept any liability for loss or damage of mobile phones in school.

ORGANISATION

Queen's Park has a computer suite on the first floor comprising of 30 computers. These computers are accessible to years Reception – 6 on a time table. This means children have access to the suite for at least one hour per week. There are opportunities throughout the week for teachers to book the suite for further sessions. Also in the suite is a high speed colour printer. A scanner is available for use in the PPA room.

As well as the suite, each class is currently equipped with 2 computers in a permanent workstation within the classroom. Classes are able to print to the various classroom based printers, the PPA room or the ICT suite. All computers are linked to a server and have a CD drive.

There are also data recorders, handheld video recorders, microphones, headphones and other equipment kept in the Computing suite cupboard. There is a digital camera in every classroom.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All children should have access to Computing with full regard of gender, race, cultural background or physical or sensory disability. Children with learning difficulties can also be given greater access to the whole curriculum through the use of IT.

Their motivation can be heightened and they are able to improve the accuracy and presentation in their work. This in turn can raise self esteem.

The INCO and Computing Coordinators are available to work with teachers on the

support which can be provided to individual children with particular educational needs, including high ability pupils. Please refer to the SEN policy for specific resources.

RESOURCE MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING

The Computing budget is set according to national, local and school requirements. Hardware and software resources are regularly updated and reviewed.

External services will be used for technical maintenance of hardware and software as required and external training and curriculum advice will be used within the models provided nationally and locally. Full details of our software and hardware resources are included in an appendix to this document.

All members of the teaching staff at Queen's Park are trained and regular skills audits take place. Training needs are reviewed against weaknesses shown from these audits through the Computing Action Plan and may also be considered during staff appraisal.

Policies that link to the Computing policy:

- Responsible Internet Use
- Health and Safety
- Behaviour and Relationships