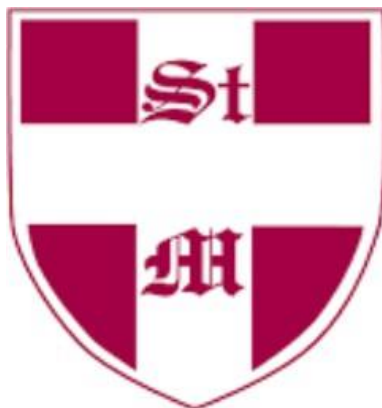


St. Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Computing Policy



"I came so that you may have life, life in all its fullness" John 10:10

St Michael Catholic Primary School and Nursery is a Catholic family of faith following the teachings of Christ. We strive to create an environment where all members of our school community respect the values of: Church, Independence, Resilience, Caring, Learning and Enjoyment for all. Belief in these values will nurture all as individuals and instil in them the confidence to meet their full potential, providing them with the best grounding for their future place in an ever-changing world.

Policy Date	September 2026
Signed by Head Teacher	Mrs N Collins
Review Date	September 2027

Our St Michael's Computing Vision

At St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School, we believe in providing pupils with a rich, ambitious and future-focused curriculum.

We believe this curriculum should provide engaging learning opportunities that support pupils' academic, personal, spiritual and technological development, preparing them for an increasingly digital world.

Incorporating Catholic Social Teaching (CST) into every facet of our curriculum, including Computing, is central to fostering a holistic education that aligns with our deeply rooted values. CST provides a moral compass that transcends academic subjects, guiding pupils towards a profound understanding of compassion, justice and the dignity of every individual.

By integrating CST throughout the curriculum, pupils learn to view the world through a lens of solidarity, prioritising the wellbeing of the marginalised and vulnerable. This holistic educational experience empowers our pupils to become not only knowledgeable learners but also compassionate advocates for positive social change.

We recognise that technology continues to evolve rapidly, including the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Our Computing curriculum equips pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding to use emerging technologies safely, responsibly and critically.

We encourage pupils to think independently, question digital information and recognise that technology should support, rather than replace, human creativity, judgement and learning.

Aims

We aim for our staff

- To understand how technology can enhance teaching and learning whilst maintaining high expectations for pupils.
- To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Computing, online safety and digital citizenship.
- To understand how to use emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), effectively and responsibly.
- To ensure children know how to use technology and the internet safely.
- To use digital technologies professionally and responsibly, complying with safeguarding expectations, copyright legislation, data protection requirements and confidentiality obligations.

We aim for our parents and carers

- To support children in using technology safely and responsibly at home.
- To work in partnership with the school to promote positive digital behaviours.
- To support and encourage learning through approved learning platforms and educational technologies.
- To understand that AI-generated content may not always be accurate or reliable and to encourage children to question and verify information appropriately.

We aim for our pupils

- To become confident, competent and creative users of technology.
- To use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly.
- To understand how technology can support learning, creativity, communication and problem-solving.
- To become critical consumers of digital content.
- To understand both the benefits and limitations of emerging technologies.

National Curriculum Aims

The National Curriculum for Computing aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, logic, algorithms and data representation.
- Analyse problems in computational terms and have repeated practical experience of writing computer programs to solve such problems.
- Evaluate and apply information technology, including new and unfamiliar technologies, analytically to solve problems.
- Are responsible, competent, confident and creative users of information and communication technology.

In addition, St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School recognises the increasing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within education and society and provides opportunities for pupils to develop an age-appropriate understanding of AI alongside the National Curriculum.

Curriculum Planning and Delivery

At St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School, Computing is organised through three key strands:

- Computer Science
- Information Technology
- Digital Literacy

Pupils build knowledge and skills progressively through these strands from Nursery to Year 6.

Our curriculum is carefully sequenced to ensure that learning builds over time and that pupils know more, remember more and apply their learning confidently.

Technology is an integral part of our school ethos and learning environment.

Pupils learn to use a range of digital technologies confidently, safely and responsibly, developing skills in computer science, information technology and digital literacy.

At St Michael's, we take every opportunity to use technology to enhance both Computing and learning across the wider curriculum.

Our Computing and Online Safety curriculum is carefully mapped to ensure pupils receive a rich, balanced and progressive curriculum throughout their time at school.

Computing is taught using Purple Mash as our core curriculum resource alongside a range of carefully selected software, digital resources and technologies which support high-quality teaching and learning.

We recognise that digital literacy is increasingly important in modern society. Pupils are taught how to access, evaluate, create and communicate information safely and effectively using digital technologies.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Pupils are introduced to Artificial Intelligence (AI) in an age-appropriate manner.

They learn that AI is increasingly used in everyday life, education and workplaces.

Pupils explore:

- The benefits of AI
- The limitations of AI
- The importance of checking information for accuracy
- How to identify AI-generated content
- The possibility of bias within digital systems
- Why AI should support rather than replace human creativity, judgement and decision-making

Pupils are encouraged to think critically and develop independence when engaging with digital content.

Online Safety

Online Safety is an integral part of Computing at St Michael's and is taught explicitly through Computing lessons.

This learning is reinforced through Relationships, Health and Economic Education (RHE), safeguarding activities and the wider curriculum.

Pupils learn about:

- Protecting personal information and privacy
- Respectful online behaviour
- Digital citizenship
- Digital footprints
- Cyberbullying
- Online relationships
- Recognising misinformation and disinformation
- Identifying fake or misleading content
- Understanding AI-generated content and its limitations
- Age-appropriate use of online communication platforms

- Managing risks online
- Where and how to seek help if something online makes them feel worried, uncomfortable or unsafe

Digital Literacy

Pupils develop digital literacy skills that enable them to participate safely and confidently in an increasingly digital society.

They learn to:

- Access information effectively
- Evaluate the reliability of sources
- Communicate appropriately in digital environments
- Create and share digital content responsibly
- Recognise manipulation, misinformation and bias
- Use digital tools safely, ethically and responsibly

These skills support learning across the curriculum and prepare pupils for future education and life beyond school.

Monitoring

Monitoring of Computing takes place through a range of evidence including:

- Lesson observations
- Pupil voice
- Scrutiny of work in class folders and Purple Mash
- Planning reviews
- Assessment information
- Discussions with staff and pupils

- Evaluation of online safety learning
- Monitoring pupils' understanding of responsible technology use

These monitoring activities help ensure progression, consistency and high-quality teaching across the school.

Safeguarding

At St Michael Catholic Primary and Nursery School, we believe that safeguarding children includes preparing them to navigate an increasingly digital world safely, responsibly and confidently.

Through our Computing curriculum and wider curriculum, pupils are taught how to use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly and how to recognise and respond to potential online risks.

As technology continues to evolve, pupils are introduced to emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), in an age-appropriate way.

They learn that AI-generated content may not always be accurate, reliable or unbiased and are encouraged to think critically, question digital information and seek guidance from trusted adults whenever they are unsure.

Pupils are also taught about emerging online risks, including:

- Misinformation
- Disinformation
- Manipulated media
- Deepfakes
- Cyberbullying
- AI-generated content
- Inappropriate online communication

They learn strategies to recognise these risks and understand where to seek help if they encounter anything online that makes them feel unsafe, concerned or uncomfortable.

The teaching of online safety and digital citizenship forms a key part of our safeguarding culture and supports pupils in becoming responsible, confident and informed users of technology.

For further details, please refer to the Online Safety Policy.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if significant changes occur to statutory guidance, safeguarding requirements, technology developments or school priorities.

The school remains committed to ensuring pupils develop the knowledge, skills and understanding required to become confident, responsible and safe digital citizens who are prepared for life in an increasingly technological world.