

SEND – Ambition and Access in Computing

Ambition – What are we aiming for children with SEND to achieve in computing?

We are ambitious for all pupils with SEND in computing. Every child has the right to access a high-quality computing education that develops their understanding of technology, digital systems and the wider digital world. Teachers maintain the same high expectations for all pupils and ensure that barriers to learning do not limit access to rich and meaningful computing experiences. Through carefully planned teaching, pupils with SEND are supported to develop the skills needed to solve problems, communicate ideas and become confident, responsible digital citizens.

Access – What amendments are made in computing to help children with SEND to achieve?

- A carefully sequenced Computing Curriculum introduces new knowledge and skills in manageable weekly chunks. Each lesson builds upon previously secured learning, enabling pupils with SEND to develop their understanding of computing concepts and processes gradually and systematically.
- Learning is deliberately planned to include frequent and structured revisits of previously taught content. Retrieval practice is embedded within lessons and across units to strengthen long-term memory and support pupils in retaining key computing knowledge, concepts and skills.
- Key computing vocabulary is explicitly taught, revisited and practised regularly. Visual glossaries, word banks, images and retrieval activities support pupils in remembering and accurately using key terminology.
- Computing knowledge and skills are broken down into small, carefully sequenced chunks to reduce cognitive load and support understanding. Teachers model processes clearly, provide guided practice and regularly check understanding, addressing misconceptions promptly before pupils move on to new learning.
- Physical resources and visual supports are used purposefully to make abstract computing concepts more concrete and accessible. Objects, manipulatives, diagrams, screenshots, images and worked examples help pupils with SEND to visualise processes, make connections and develop a secure understanding of computing concepts.
- Paired and team working is used to support communication, collaboration and problem-solving. Carefully structured opportunities to work with peers enable pupils with SEND to rehearse vocabulary, explain their thinking, share ideas and develop confidence when applying computing knowledge and skills.
- Real-world scenarios and meaningful contexts are used to help pupils understand how computing and technology are used in everyday life. Pupils are supported to apply their knowledge to situations such as online communication, privacy, passwords, cyberbullying and evaluating information, helping them develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to become safe, responsible and respectful digital citizens.