

Federation of Follifoot & Spofforth CE Primary Schools

Children ICT & e-Safety Information for parents & carers



The Purpose of this guide

Children today are increasingly using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in school and in the home.

This guide explains;

- How your child/children are using ICT in school.
- How using ICT can help and support learning.
 - How children can use the internet safely at home.
- Where you can access further information.

How your child uses ICT at school

ICT is taught as a subject in its own right which in the new national curriculum is referred to as 'Computing'. ICT is also used to support children's learning in other subjects, including English and mathematics. Within lessons children learn to use a wide range of ICT including:

Word Processing to write stories, poems or letters

Databases to record information, e.g. minibests

Spreadsheets to create tables, charts and graphs

Desktop Publishing to design posters, leaflets or cards

Multimedia Presentation to present text, pictures, sound and video

Drawing Programs to create pictures and designs

Internet and CD-ROMs to find information

Email to contact children and teachers in another school

Digital Cameras to record what they have done in class or on a visit

Electronic Sensors to record changes in light, sound and temperature

Controllable Robots to give instructions and make something happen

Simulations to explore real and imaginary situations

Computing

Purpose of study

A high-quality computing education equips pupils to understand and change the world through logical thinking and creativity, including by making links with mathematics, science, and design and technology. The core of computing is computer science, in which pupils are taught the principles of information and computation, and how digital systems work. Computing equips pupils to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of media. It also ensures that pupils become digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

Aims

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.

Subject content

Key stage 1

Pupils should be taught to:

- understand what algorithms are; how they are implemented as programs on digital devices; and that programs execute by following precise and unambiguous instructions
- create and debug simple programs
- use logical reasoning to predict the behaviour of simple programs
- use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content
- use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private; know where to go for help and support when they have concerns about material on the internet
- recognise common uses of information technology beyond school.

Key stage 2

Pupils should be taught to:

- design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling or simulating physical systems; solve problems by decomposing them into smaller parts
- use sequence, selection, and repetition in programs; work with variables and various forms of input and output
- use logical reasoning to explain how some simple algorithms work and to detect and correct errors in algorithms and programs
- understand computer networks including the internet; how they can provide multiple services, such as the world-wide web; and the opportunities they offer for communication and collaboration
- use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and be discerning in evaluating digital content
- use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; know a range of ways to report concerns and inappropriate behaviour
- select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to accomplish given goals, inc

At School we ensure children are kept safe when using ICT by;

- Ensuring all access is supervised by an adult.
- Use of a filtering system that blocks inappropriate content.
- Activate appropriate control settings on individual devices including all our tablet devices.
- Teach them about the potential risks and how to minimise them.
- Encourage them to always report anything that worries or concerns them or anyone else.
- Educate children about the advantages and risks associated with internet in particular communicating with others via internet including social media.

How you can help your child at home

ICT is not just about using a computer. It also includes the use of controllable toys, digital cameras and everyday equipment such as a CD player or DVD player.

Children can be helped to develop their ICT skills at home by:

- _ writing a letter to a relative
- _ sending an email to a friend
- _ drawing a picture on screen
- _ using the Internet to research a class topic
- _ planning a route with a controllable toy
- _ using interactive games.

How learning at home with ICT benefits children

Home use of ICT by children:

- _ improves their ICT skills
- _ offers them choice in what they learn and how they learn it
- _ supports homework and revision
- _ improves the presentation of their work
- _ connects learning at school with learning at home
- _ makes learning more fun.

All this can lead to better performance at school and an improved standard of work.

For further information go to:

Parents Centre: www.parentscentre.gov.uk/usingcomputersandtheinternet.

From the menu choose either **Links by topic** or **Links by age** for details of websites that will support children's learning.

Benefits of using ICT at home

How we know that using ICT at home can help

Many studies have looked at the benefits of having access to a computer and/or the Internet at home. Here are some of the key findings:

- _ used effectively, ICT can improve children's achievement
- _ using ICT at home and at school develops skills for life
- _ children with supportive and involved parents and carers do better at school
- _ children enjoy using ICT
- _ using ICT provides access to a wider and more flexible range of learning materials.

Using the Internet safely at home

Whilst many Internet Service Providers offer filtering systems and tools to help you safeguard your child at home, it remains surprisingly easy for children to access inappropriate material including unsuitable text, pictures and movies. Parents are advised to set the security levels within Internet Explorer or other browsers with this in mind. Locating the computer in a family area where possible, not a bedroom will enable you to supervise your son or daughter as they use the Internet. Also consider mobile phones and games consoles and other devices that can access the internet. However, don't deny them the opportunity to learn from and enjoy the wide variety of material and games available on the Internet. Instead discuss with them some simple rules for keeping safe online and making sure they understand their importance.

Using these rules

Simple rules for keeping your child safe. To keep your child safe we recommend you should:

- Only allow supervised access for all Primary age children.
- Only provide access to social media, email and any other form of electronic communication with others through a parent or carer account which they can only access under full supervision. Many social media accounts such as 'Facebook' require users to be at least 13 years old. No primary age child should have a 'Facebook' account of their own.
- Ensure they ask permission before using the Internet and discuss what websites they are using, only use websites you have chosen together or a child friendly search engine
- Internet sites your child is visiting e.g. by clicking on History and Favourites. Please reassure your child that you want to keep them safe rather than take Internet access away from them.
- Create a dialogue and a relationship of mutual respect as far as the Internet is concerned.

When using social media under supervision use the opportunity to remind them When they are old enough to have their own account they should.

- Never give out any personal information about themselves, friends or family online including home address, phone or mobile number;
- Never arrange to meet someone they have 'met' on the Internet without talking to an adult first; always take an adult and meet in a public place.
- Never tell someone where they go to school or post any pictures of themselves in school uniform.
- Only use a webcam with people they know.
- Tell you immediately if they see anything they are unhappy with.

For further information go to:

CEOP: www.ceop.gov.uk

Think U Know: www.thinkuknow.co.uk