Computing Skills Overview





	Year 1
Hardware	 Learning how to operate a camera or tablet to take photos and videos. Learning how to explore and tinker with hardware to find out how it works. Recognising that some devices are input devices and others are output devices. Learning where keys are located on the keyboard.
Networks and Data Representations	NA
Computational Thinking	 Learning that decomposition means breaking a problem down into smaller parts. Using decomposition to solve unplugged challenges. Using logical reasoning to predict the behaviour of simple programs. Developing the skills associated with sequencing in unplugged activities. Following a basic set of instructions. Assembling instructions into a simple algorithm.
Programming	 Programming a Floor robot to follow a planned route. Learning to debug instructions when things go wrong. Using programming language to explain how a floor robot works. Learning to debug an algorithm in an unplugged scenario.
Using Software	 Using a basic range of tools within graphic editing software. Taking and editing photographs. Developing control of the mouse through dragging, clicking and resizing of images to create different effects. Developing understanding of different software tools.
Using email and internet searches	 Recognising devices that are connected to the internet. Searching and downloading images from the internet safely. Understanding that we are connected to others when using the internet.
Using data	 Understanding that technology can be used to represent data in different ways: pictograms, tables, pie charts, bar charts, block graphs etc. Using representations to answer questions about data. Using software to explore and create pictograms and branching databases.

- Recognising common uses of information technology, including beyond school.
- Understanding some of the ways we can use the internet.

	Year 2
Hardware	 Understanding what a computer is and that it's made up of different components. Recognising that buttons cause effects and that technology follows instructions. Learning how we know that technology is doing what we want it to do via its output. Using greater control when taking photos with cameras, tablets or computers. Developing confidence with the keyboard and the basics of touch typing.
Networks and Data Representations	
Computational Thinking	 Articulating what decomposition is. Decomposing a game to predict the algorithms used to create it. Learning that there are different levels of abstraction. Explaining what an algorithm is. Following an algorithm. Creating a clear and precise algorithm. Learning that programs execute by following precise instructions. Incorporating loops within algorithms.
Programming	 Using logical thinking to explore software, predicting, testing and explaining what it does. Using an algorithm to write a basic computer program. Using loop blocks when programming to repeat an instruction more than once.
Using Software	 Developing word processing skills, including altering text, copying and pasting and using keyboard shortcuts. Using word processing software to type and reformat text. Using software (and unplugged means) to create story animations. Creating and labelling images.
Using email and internet searches	 Searching for appropriate images to use in a document. Understanding what online information is.
Using data	 Collecting and inputting data into a spreadsheet. Interpreting data from a spreadsheet.
Wider Use of Technology	 Learning about the Internet of Things and how it has led to 'big data'. Learning how 'big data' can be used to solve a problem or improve efficiency.

	Year 3
Hardware	 Understanding what the different components of a computer do and how they work together. Drawing comparisons across different types of computers. Learning about the purpose of routers.
Networks and Data Representations	 Understanding the role of the key components of a network. Identifying the key components within a network, including whether they are wired or wireless. Understanding that websites and videos are files that are shared from one computer to another. Learning about the role of packets. Understanding how networks work and their purpose. Recognising links between networks and the internet. Learning how data is transferred.
Computational Thinking	 Using decomposition to explain the parts of a laptop computer. Using decomposition to explore the code behind an animation. Using repetition in programs. Using logical reasoning to explain how simple algorithms work. Explaining the purpose of an algorithm. Forming algorithms independently.
Programming	 Using logical thinking to explore more complex software; predicting, testing and explaining what it does. Incorporating loops to make code more efficient. Continuing existing code. Making reasonable suggestions for how to debug their own and others' code.
Using Software	 Taking photographs and recording video to tell a story. Using software to edit and enhance their video adding music, sounds and text on screen with transitions.
Using email and internet searches	 Learning to log in and out of an email account. Writing an email including a subject, 'to' and 'from.' Sending an email with an attachment. Replying to an email.
Using data	 Understanding the vocabulary to do with databases: field, record, data. Learning about the pros and cons of digital versus paper databases. Sorting and filtering databases to easily retrieve information. Creating and interpreting charts and graphs to understand data.
Wider Use of Technology	 Understanding the purpose of emails. Recognising how social media platforms are used to interact.

	Year 4
Hardware	 Using tablets or digital cameras to film a weather forecast. Understanding that weather stations use sensors to gather and record data which predicts the weather.
Networks and Data Representations	 Understanding that computer networks provide multiple services, such as the World Wide Web, and opportunities for communication and collaboration.
Computational Thinking	 Using decomposition to solve a problem by finding out what code was used. Using decomposition to understand the purpose of a script of code. Identifying patterns through unplugged activities. Using past experiences to help solve new problems. Using abstraction to identify the important parts when completing both plugged and unplugged activities.
Programming	 Creating algorithms for a specific purpose. Coding a simple game. Using abstraction and pattern recognition to modify code. Incorporating variables to make code more efficient.
Using Software	 Building a web page and creating content for it. Designing and creating a webpage for a given purpose. Use online software for documents, presentations, forms and spreadsheets. Using software to work collaboratively with others.
Using email and internet searches	 Understanding why some results come before others when searching. Using keywords to effectively search for information on the internet. Understanding that information found by searching the internet is not all grounded in fact. Searching the internet for data.
Using data	 Understanding why some results come before others when searching. Using keywords to effectively search for information on the internet. Understanding that information found by searching the internet is not all grounded in fact. Searching the internet for data.
Wider Use of Technology	Understanding that software can be used collaboratively online to work as a team.

	Year 5
Hardware	 Learning that external devices can be programmed by a separate computer. Learning the difference between ROM and RAM. Recognising how the size of RAM affects the processing of data. Understanding the fetch, decode, execute cycle.
Networks and Data Representations	 Learning the vocabulary associated with data: data and transmit. Learning how the data for digital images can be compressed. Recognising that computers transfer data in binary and understanding simple binary addition. Relating binary signals (Boolean) to the simple character-based language, ASCII. Learning that messages can be sent by binary code, reading binary up to eight characters and carrying out binary calculations. Understanding how bit patterns represent images as pixels.
Computational Thinking	 Decomposing animations into a series of images. Decomposing a program without support. Decomposing a story to be able to plan a program to tell a story. Predicting how software will work based on previous experience. Writing more complex algorithms for a purpose.
Programming	 Programming an animation. Iterating and developing their programming as they work. Confidently using loops in their programming. Using a more systematic approach to debugging code, justifying what is wrong and how it can be corrected. Writing code to create a desired effect. Using a range of programming commands. Using repetition within a program. Amending code within a live scenario.
Using Software	 Using logical thinking to explore software more independently, making predictions based on their previous experience. Using software programme Sonic Pi/Scratch to create music. Using the video editing software to animate. Identify ways to improve and edit programs, videos, images etc. Independently learning how to use 3D design software package TinkerCAD.
Using email and internet searches	 Developing searching skills to help find relevant information on the internet. Learning how to use search engines effectively to find information, focussing on keyword searches and evaluating search returns.
Using data	 Understanding how data is collected in remote or dangerous places. Understanding how data might be used to tell us about a location.
Wider Use of Technology	 Learn about different forms of communication that have developed with the use of technology.

	Year 6
Hardware	 Learning about the history of computers and how they have evolved over time. Using the understanding of historic computers to design a computer of the future. Understanding and identifying barcodes, QR codes and RFID. Identifying devices and applications that can scan or read barcodes, QR codes and RFID. Understanding how corruption can happen within data during transfer (for example when downloading, installing, copying and updating files).
Networks and Data Representations	Understanding that computer networks provide multiple services.
Computational Thinking	 Decomposing a program into an algorithm. Using past experiences to help solve new problems. Writing increasingly complex algorithms for a purpose.
Programming	 Debugging quickly and effectively to make a program more efficient. Remixing existing code to explore a problem. Using and adapting nested loops. Programming using the language Python. Changing a program to personalise it. Evaluating code to understand its purpose. Predicting code and adapting it to a chosen purpose.
Using Software	 Using logical thinking to explore software independently, iterating ideas and testing continuously. Using search and word processing skills to create a presentation. Creating and editing sound recordings for a specific purpose. Creating and editing videos, adding multiple elements: music, voiceover, sound, text and transitions. Using design software TinkerCAD to design a product. Creating a website with embedded links and multiple pages.
Using email and internet searches	 Understanding how search engines work.
Using data	 Understanding how barcodes, QR codes and RFID work. Gathering and analysing data in real time. Creating formulas and sorting data within spreadsheets.
Wider Use of Technology	 Learning about the Internet of Things and how it has led to 'big data'. Learning how 'big data' can be used to solve a problem or improve efficiency.