

Computing in EYFS at St Dennis Primary Academy



Scope and Approach – Computing in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at St Dennis Primary Academy is designed to provide a broad, balanced, and ambitious curriculum that builds strong foundations for future learning. Children develop curiosity about technology and begin to understand its role in their everyday lives through exploration, play and purposeful experiences. Through hands-on learning, children explore a range of digital tools and develop early computational thinking skills, including problem-solving, sequencing and logical reasoning. Computing is embedded across provision, ensuring that all children, including those with additional needs, can access and engage with learning.

Aligned with the EYFS framework, Computing supports several key areas of learning:

- **Understanding the World** – Children recognise and talk about technology in their environment. They explore how devices work and begin to understand cause and effect through purposeful interaction.
- **Expressive Arts and Design** – Children use technology to create and express ideas. They experiment with digital media such as drawing tools, cameras, and simple programs to design, record, and represent their thinking.
- **Physical Development** – Children develop fine motor control and coordination through the use of devices such as tablets, keyboards and interactive whiteboards, using them with increasing accuracy and confidence.
- **Communication and Language** – Computing provides rich opportunities for discussion. Children explain their ideas, describe processes, and use new vocabulary linked to technology.

Computing in EYFS prioritises the learning process rather than outcomes. Children are encouraged to explore, make choices, solve problems, and develop resilience. This lays the foundations for future computing learning and supports independence and critical thinking.

Vocabulary – A clear focus is placed on developing subject-specific vocabulary to support future learning. Key vocabulary is explicitly taught, modelled, and revisited in context. Children are introduced to words such as *device, computer, tablet, program, instructions, algorithm, camera, record, internet, safe, and technology*.

Assessment – Assessment is formative, ongoing, and responsive. Practitioners observe children within provision and during focused activities, recording key achievements in planning used by all adults. Assessment information is used to adapt teaching, provide targeted support, and ensure all children make progress from their starting points. This includes: Responsive group work and 1:1 support, adaptations within continuous provision, monitoring through a Pupil Progress document to identify children on track or those requiring additional support

Achievement of the Early Learning Goals is determined through professional discussion and practitioners' secure knowledge of each child. This ensures accurate judgements and supports a smooth transition into Year 1, with clear next steps identified.

Opportunities and activities in Reception

- Staff explicitly model the safe and purposeful use of technology before children independently apply skills (e.g., taking photos, recording videos).
- Continuous provision includes a range of accessible technology (e.g., tablets, cameras, programmable toys such as Bee-Bots, and interactive whiteboards).
- Children explore early programming through simple toys, developing sequencing, positional language, and problem-solving skills.
- Age-appropriate apps support creativity, communication, and early computing skills.
- Technology is used purposefully across all areas of learning to enhance engagement and outcomes.
- Resources are introduced in September and progressively developed to ensure clear progression of skills throughout the year.
- Real-life links are made to children's experiences, strengthening understanding and relevance.
- Staff provide high-quality interactions, questioning, and modelling to extend thinking, deepen learning, and support evaluation and reflection.
- Books and high-quality texts support understanding of technology and its role in the wider world.