

Unit summaries

	Computing systems and networks	Creating media	Programming A	Data and information	Creating media	Programming B
Year 3	<p>Connecting computers</p> <p>Identifying that digital devices have inputs, processes, and outputs, and how devices can be connected to make networks.</p>	<p>Stop-frame animation</p> <p>Capturing and editing digital still images to produce a stop-frame animation that tells a story.</p>	<p>Sequencing sounds</p> <p>Creating sequences in a block-based programming language to make music.</p>	<p>Branching databases</p> <p>Building and using branching databases to group objects using yes/no questions.</p>	<p>Desktop publishing</p> <p>Creating documents by modifying text, images, and page layouts for a specified purpose.</p>	<p>Events and actions in programs</p> <p>Writing algorithms and programs that use a range of events to trigger sequences of actions.</p>
Year 4	<p>The internet</p> <p>Recognising the internet as a network of networks including the WWW, and why we should evaluate online content.</p>	<p>Audio production</p> <p>Capturing and editing audio to produce a podcast, ensuring that copyright is considered.</p>	<p>Repetition in shapes</p> <p>Using a text-based programming language to explore count-controlled loops when drawing shapes.</p>	<p>Data logging</p> <p>Recognising how and why data is collected over time, before using data loggers to carry out an investigation.</p>	<p>Photo editing</p> <p>Manipulating digital images, and reflecting on the impact of changes and whether the required purpose is fulfilled.</p>	<p>Repetition in games</p> <p>Using a block-based programming language to explore count-controlled and infinite loops when creating a game.</p>

Unit summaries

	Computing systems and networks	Creating media	Programming A	Data and information	Creating media	Programming B
Year 5	Systems and searching Recognising IT systems in the world and how some can enable searching on the internet.	Video production Planning, capturing, and editing video to produce a short film.	Selection in physical computing Exploring conditions and selection using a programmable microcontroller.	Flat-file databases Using a database to order data and create charts to answer questions.	Introduction to vector graphics Creating images in a drawing program by using layers and groups of objects.	Selection in quizzes Exploring selection in programming to design and code an interactive quiz.
Year 6	Communication and collaboration Exploring how data is transferred by working collaboratively online.	Webpage creation Designing and creating webpages, giving consideration to copyright, aesthetics, and navigation.	Variables in games Exploring variables when designing and coding a game.	Introduction to spreadsheets Answering questions by using spreadsheets to organise and calculate data.	3D modelling Planning, developing, and evaluating 3D computer models of physical objects.	Sensing movement Designing and coding a project that captures inputs from a physical device.

National curriculum coverage - Years 3 and 4	3.1 Connecting computers	3.2 Stop-frame animation	3.3 Sequencing sounds	3.4 Branching databases	3.5 Desktop publishing	3.6 Events and actions in programs	4.1 The internet	4.2 Audio production	4.3 Repetition in shapes	4.4 Data logging	4.5 Photo editing	4.6 Repetition in games
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					✓		✓	✓			✓	
Select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviour; identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact		✓		✓			✓	✓			✓	

National curriculum coverage - Years 5 and 6

	5.1 Systems and searching	5.2 Video production	5.3 Selection in physical computing	5.4 Flat-file databases	5.5 Introduction to vector graphics	5.6 Selection in quizzes	6.1 Communication and collaboration	6.2 Webpage creation	6.3 Variables in games	6.4 Introduction to spreadsheets	6.5 3D modelling	6.6 Sensing movement
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		✓		✓				✓				
Select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviour; identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact	✓	✓						✓	✓		✓	

Structure of the units of work

Every unit of work in the Teach Computing Curriculum contains: a unit overview; a learning graph, to show the progression of skills and concepts in a unit; lesson content – including a detailed lesson plan, slides for learners, and all the resources you will need; and formative and summative assessment opportunities.

Teach Computing Curriculum overview

	Computing systems and networks	Creating media	Programming A	Data and information	Creating media	Programming B
Year 3	Connecting computers (3.1)	Stop-frame animation (3.2)	Sequencing sounds (3.3)	Branching databases (3.4)	Desktop publishing (3.5)	Events and actions in programs (3.6)
Year 4	The internet (4.1)	Audio production (4.2)	Repetition in shapes (4.3)	Data logging (4.4)	Photo editing (4.5)	Repetition in games (4.6)
Year 5	Systems and searching (5.1)	Video production (5.2)	Selection in physical computing (5.3)	Flat-file databases (5.4)	Introduction to vector graphics (5.5)	Selection in quizzes (5.6)
Year 6	Communication and collaboration (6.1)	Webpage creation (6.2)	Variables in games (6.3)	Introduction to spreadsheets (6.4)	3D modelling (6.5)	Sensing movement (6.6)

Curriculum design

The approach

Coherence and flexibility

The Teach Computing Curriculum is structured in units. For these units to be coherent, the lessons within a unit must be taught in order. However, across a year group, the units themselves do not need to be taught in order, with the exception of 'Programming' units, where concepts and skills rely on prior learning and experiences.

Knowledge organisation

The Teach Computing Curriculum uses the National Centre for Computing Education's computing taxonomy to ensure comprehensive coverage of the subject. This has been developed through a thorough review of the KS1–4 computing programme of study, and the GCSE and A level computer science specifications across all awarding bodies. All learning outcomes can be described through a high-level taxonomy of ten strands, ordered alphabetically as follows:

- **Algorithms** – Be able to comprehend, design, create, and evaluate algorithms
- **Computer networks** – Understand how networks can be used to retrieve and share information, and how they come with associated risks
- **Computer systems** – Understand what a computer is, and how its constituent parts function together as a whole
- **Creating media** – Select and create a range of media including text, images, sounds, and video
- **Data and information** – Understand how data is stored, organised, and used to represent real-world artefacts and scenarios
- **Design and development** – Understand the activities involved in planning, creating, and evaluating computing artefacts
- **Effective use of tools** – Use software tools to support computing work
- **Impact of technology** – Understand how individuals, systems, and society as a whole interact with computer systems
- **Programming** – Create software to allow computers to solve problems
- **Safety and security** – Understand risks when using technology, and how to protect individuals and systems

The taxonomy provides categories and an organised view of content to encapsulate the discipline of computing. Whilst all strands are present at all phases, they are not always taught explicitly.

Spiral curriculum

The units for key stages 1 and 2 are based on a spiral curriculum. This means that each of the themes is revisited regularly (at least once in each year group), and pupils revisit each theme through a new unit that consolidates and builds on prior learning within that theme.

This style of curriculum design reduces the amount of knowledge lost through forgetting, as topics are revisited yearly. It also ensures that connections are made even if different teachers are teaching the units within a theme in consecutive years.

Physical computing

The Teach Computing Curriculum acknowledges that physical computing plays an important role in modern pedagogical approaches in computing, both as a tool to engage pupils and as a strategy to develop pupils' understanding in more creative ways. Additionally, physical computing supports and engages a diverse range of pupils in tangible and challenging tasks.

The physical computing units in the Teach Computing Curriculum are:

- Year 5 – Selection in physical computing, which uses a Crumble controller
- Year 6 – Sensing movement, which uses a micro:bit

Your local Computing Hub can loan you the kit you need to teach the physical computing units from our curriculum ([ncce.io/hubs](https://www.ncce.io/hubs)).

Online safety

The unit overviews for each unit show the links between the content of the lessons and the national curriculum and Education for a Connected World framework ([ncce.io/efacw](https://www.ncce.io/efacw)). These references have been provided to show where aspects relating to online safety, or digital citizenship, are covered within the Teach Computing Curriculum. Not all of the objectives in the Education for a Connected World framework are covered in the Teach Computing Curriculum, as some are better suited to personal, social, health, and economic (PSHE) education; spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) development; and citizenship. However, the coverage required for the computing national curriculum is provided.

Schools should decide for themselves how they will ensure that online safety is being managed effectively in their setting, as the scope of this is much wider than just curriculum content.

Core principles

Inclusive and ambitious

The Teach Computing Curriculum has been written to support all pupils. Each lesson is sequenced so that it builds on the learning from the previous lesson, and where appropriate, activities are scaffolded so that all pupils can succeed and thrive. Scaffolded activities provide pupils with extra resources, such as visual prompts, to reach the same learning goals as the rest of the class. Exploratory tasks foster a deeper understanding of a concept, encouraging pupils to apply their learning in different contexts and make connections with other learning experiences.

As well as scaffolded activities, embedded within the lessons are a range of pedagogical strategies (defined in the 'Pedagogy' section of this document), which support making computing topics more accessible.



Research-informed

The subject of computing is much younger than many other subjects, and as such, there is still a lot more to learn about how to teach it effectively. To ensure that teachers are as prepared as possible, the Teach Computing Curriculum builds on a set of pedagogical principles (see the 'Pedagogy' section of this document), which are underpinned by the latest computing research, to demonstrate effective pedagogical strategies throughout. To remain up-to-date as research continues to develop, every aspect of the Teach Computing Curriculum is reviewed each year and changes are made as necessary.

Time-saving for teachers

The Teach Computing Curriculum has been designed to reduce teacher workload. To ensure this, the Teach Computing Curriculum includes all the resources a teacher needs, covering every aspect from planning, to progression mapping, to supporting materials.