

Computing

Computing is becoming an ever increasing part of our lives. At Westbridge Academy, we believe it is a core life skill, and that is why a good early start in grasping the fundamentals is so important. Through a progressive curriculum, our children begin a learning journey that sees them take their first steps in understanding how computers shape the world around us. From learning how to create animated story books in Year 1 that extend their imagination, to building spreadsheets and databases in Year 6; we aim to equip our children with the skills needed to succeed in a digital future.

The National Curriculum sets a broad and ambitious framework that underpins our mission statement, and it does so by categorising these skills into three areas: computer science, digital literacy and information technology.

Computer Science relates to the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. Our youngest pupils in Early Years begin this journey through the use of discreet learning as they explore using directional language and following and creating instructions. By Key Stage Two, they will have become familiar with the concept of algorithms and debugging, enabling them to create and explore more complex programming languages.

Information Technology refers to the broad usage of different mediums and software. At Westbridge Academy, we provide our children with BeeBots, tablets and laptops to access the necessary tools they need to create content no matter where they are in the school.

Digital Literacy refers to how prepared children ultimately are to use digital tools effectively. From understanding how to search for a specific query on a document or a search engine, to how to be responsible and sensible digital citizens, preparing our children with the knowledge and confidence to be the very best they can be in a modern world underpins our Computing curriculum.

Computing is becoming an ever increasing part of our lives both at home and at school. We know that it can be an incredibly effective learning tool and this is why we embed the use of technology in our daily practice, whether it is the use of interactive screens to engage young learners or using tablets to create stop-motion animation projects in after-school clubs. We use it to celebrate achievements and reinforce positive behaviour. And when we want to share our hopes for Aspiration Week, our children are keen to use their skills to their passions digitally. It is that enthusiasm that drives us to give our children the best opportunity to succeed.