1. COMPUTING CURRICULUM VISION

At St. Columba's Catholic Primary School we value the contribution that technology can make for the benefit of all pupils, staff, parents and governors. We strive to provide safe opportunities in all subjects to motivate and inspire pupils and raise standards across the curriculum. Everyone in our school community will become lifelong learners equipped to meet developing technology with confidence, enthusiasm and the skills that will prepare them for a future in an ever-changing world.

2. OUR COMPUTING VISION ENCOMPASSES THE FOLLOWING AIMS:

• To provide pupils with the computational skills necessary to become independent learners

• To promote safe and sensible use of technology through a dedicated e-safety curriculum (Digital Citizenship).

• To use new technologies to enable good quality teaching and learning to take place

• To ensure appropriate and equal access to technology for all children regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or ability

• To utilise the online collaborative platforms e.g. Microsoft 365, Blogging and Edmodo in order to provide extended and personalised learning opportunities through the use of technology

• To commit to the Continuous Professional Development of Computing

• To ensure our pupils take advantage of the ever quickening pace of technological change

• To provide pupils with an understanding of the role technology plays in everyday life at present and its importance in the future

• To give children opportunities to access the Computing Curriculum through home-school links and resources. (Mathletics, TOCO email, Phonics Play, EDMODO)

3. INCLUSION

Pupils with special educational needs should be able to use the technology to encourage their independence and develop their interests and abilities.
All pupils are to have access to the use of technology regardless of gender, race, cultural background or any physical or sensory disability. Pupils with learning difficulties can be given greater access to the whole curriculum through the use of technology.

Research shows that more boys than girls use computers. Access to computers will be monitored between sexes to ensure equality and opportunity.

The youngest pupils in the Nursery and Reception classes begin to use and learn about Computing as soon as it is practicable after entering school, so that they gain confidence in using computers as soon as possible.

Pupils who are noted for being Gifted and Talented within the area of Computing and technology are given additional opportunities to develop the understanding of technology and are both supported and challenged within the context of a Computing lesson and through targeted group activities.

Children who are recognised as being gifted in ICT, are asked to mentor and become Digital Leaders, sharing their skills with other pupils within their peer group – the aim of this is to help transfer their skills to a wider context. We also use Digital leaders to help support both pupils and teachers within the teaching of Computing and in some cases manage and maintain communication tools such as Twitter and Class Blogs. This is done both through cross-curricular lessons as well as specific Computing structured lessons. Alongside this the Digital Leaders help to develop new curriculum ideas and run sessions to offer children additional access to technology within lunchtimes.

4. IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY

Good practice in the use of technology in the curriculum

In Computing lessons: Pupils are timetabled for at least one Computing day per half term, where they have access to their own iPad /laptop or Android, which covers the skills and experience required to develop Computing Capability through the school's Scheme of Work (Knowsley CLCs) – with an additional emphasis on e-safety and Coding/Programming. However on the whole the teaching of the remainder of the Computing PoS (Digital Literacy, Information Technology etc.) is done through cross-curricular subject links; Ipads and Androids are in full use throughout the school day.

Teachers ensure the teaching of Computing is evident within all areas of the curriculum following a topic-based approach and creating cross-curricular links.

In learning and teaching across the curriculum: There are Interactive Whiteboards (IWBs) in every classroom, used throughout the day for whole class teaching in all subjects. Whiteboards are also used within group activities by teachers or TAs or for collaborative activities by pupils. Whiteboards are also regularly used by pupils themselves to participate in the class or group lesson, or demonstrate what they have learned or to display work they have done. The IWB is connected to a main classroom computer/laptop or iPad which is on the school network with access to shared work areas.

In addition to this all children have access to wireless laptops, and iPads for use in all curriculum areas and to support extended learning during break times.

Staff and pupils regularly and confidently access links to online resources. Teaching and support staff are confident selecting programs and make extensive use of resources for pupil to use from the school network, or online resources e.g. Mathletics, Education City etc. Classes maintain a portfolio of good examples of their schoolwork.

Classwork is also evident on the school website via the class page and class blog. Throughout the year there are various Computing clubs on offer, for example Breakfast Club. Lunch Clubs will also be available through the Summer term – one for children beginning their learning journey into programming, and one for those children who are more advanced.

5. DEVELOPING AND MONITORING THE COMPUTING CURRICULUM

The Head teacher and Computing Subject Leader are responsible for ensuring there is a Computing policy and that it is implemented. The Computing Subject Leader is responsible for mapping the Knowsley CLC's Scheme of Work and for liaising with other subject leaders to map the delivery of further technology use in learning and teaching across the curriculum.

Members of the SLT will monitor learning and teaching in Computing as they do for literacy and numeracy. The Computing Subject Leader will also be involved in monitoring class teachers' curriculum planning and teaching. The Computing Subject Leader will carry out an audit of staff skills annually and support and training will be provided where necessary.

All staff will regularly update their displays and ensure that the use of technology is evident with classroom and curricular displays.

6. ASSESSMENT

This year the school is taking a new approach to the way in which it assesses the new Computing Curriculum. Using a Computing Pupil Portfolio of "I Can Statements" link to the Knowsley CLC's Scheme of Work, each learning point has been mapped to activities. The "I Can Statements" themselves have been designed from a 'Using and Applying' approach and the pupils will need to use what they have learnt in order to complete the tasks asked of them and will be given an opportunity to self reflect on their work through plenaries. These "I Can Statements" give the children opportunities to develop a range of techniques within the 'Computing Umbrella', thus providing them with an excellent grounding to further progress the knowledge of technology in the wider world.

7. HOME LINKS

The children have access to a wide variety of resources that enable them to continue their learning of Computing and technology at home. For example; Education City and Mathletics. Through these the children are able to complete set tasks, and save their work virtually so that it can be shared both in school and at home with teachers and parents. TOCO mail and EDMODO is available on all androids. We also have a School Twitter account and blog.

8. IDENTIFYING GIFTED PUPILS IN COMPUTING

All staff have high aspirations to challenge and motivate children of all abilities. In Computing, pupils who are identified as gifted are challenged within lessons in school, and are additionally offered external workshops and challenges; as well as encouraged to attend extra -curricular activities.

To help identify pupils who are gifted, the following markers have been adapted:

Gifted Markers to look for in Computing

• Finds and uses new technology (hardware/software) to further learning

• Uses own skills and knowledge to help support (and 'teach') peers

• Uses technology to help solve problems, and understands when it also creates problems

• Considers the limitations of technology, and looks for ways to overcome these limitations

• Considers the purpose to which information is processed and communicated, and how the characteristics of different kinds of information influence its use

• Uses technology innovatively to support learning in other subjects

• Understands the positive impact using technology has in supporting the learning of less able pupils

• Uses skills and knowledge of Computing to design, create and 'debug' programs when only given a specified outcome

• Consider some of the social, economic and ethical issues raised by the use of technology both in and out of school

9. THIS POLICY

The Computing subject Leader and the Headteacher will be responsible for ensuring the effective monitoring, evaluation and review of this policy.

Policy agreed by Governors on	January 2015
Signature of Chair of Governors	Mrs J Sims
Signature of Head Teacher	Miss M Evans
Date to be reviewed	January 2016