



Teacher G

Key Stage 1

guide to the Teach Computing Curriculum

ontents

Introduction

Curriculum design

The approach

Coherence and flexibility

Knowledge organisation

Spiral curriculum

Physical computing

Online safety

Core principles

Inclusive and ambitious

Research-informed

Time-saving for teachers

Structure of the units of work

5 Teach Computing Curriculum overview

5 Brief overview

6 Unit summaries

7 National curriculum coverage – key
computing curriculum

8 Teaching order

8 Mixed year groups

9 Progression

9 Progression across key stages

9 Progression across year groups

10 Progression within a unit — learning g

Teach

Computing

Introduction

Teach Computing Curriculum (nccce.io/tcc) is a comprehensive collection of materials produced to support hours of teaching, facilitating the delivery of the entire primary computing curriculum from key stage 1 to 4 (5- to 11-year-olds). The Teach Computing Curriculum was created by the Raspberry Pi Foundation on behalf of the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCCE). All content is free, and editable under the Open Government Licence (OGL — nccce.io/ogl), ensuring that the resources can be tailored to each individual teacher and school context. The materials are suitable for all pupils irrespective of prior skills, background, and additional needs.

The aims of the Teach Computing Curriculum are as follows:

- Reduce teacher workload
- Show the breadth and depth of the computing curriculum, particularly beyond programmatic computing
- Demonstrate how computing can be taught in a way that is based on research
- Highlight areas for subject knowledge and skills enhancement through training

The Teach Computing Curriculum resources are regularly updated in response to feedback. Feedback can be submitted at nccce.io/rfeedback or by email at resourcesfeedback@raspberrypi.org.

Curriculum design

Design approach

Coherence and flexibility

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

Knowledge organisation

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 the high-level taxonomy of ten strands, ordered alphabetically as follows:

- **Algorithms** — Be able to comprehend, design, and evaluate algorithms
- **Computer networks** — Understand how networks can be used to retrieve and share information, and the risks they come with associated risks
- **Computer systems** — Understand what a computer system is, and how its constituent parts function together
- **Creating media** — Select and create a range of digital media, including text, images, sounds, and video
- **Data and information** — Understand how data is organised, and used to represent real-world scenarios
- **Design and development** — Understand the process involved in planning, creating, and evaluating digital computing artefacts
- **Effective use of tools** — Use software tools to support computing work
- **Impact of technology** — Understand how technology, systems, and society as a whole interact, and the impact of computer systems

The logo for Teach Computing, featuring the word 'Teach' in white on an orange rectangular background, and the word 'Computing' in white on a larger orange rectangular background that overlaps the first one.

Thematic 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 regularly. It also ensures that connections are made even if different teachers are teaching the units across a theme in consecutive years.

Physical computing

The Teach Computing Curriculum acknowledges that physical computing plays an important role in pedagogical approaches in computing, both as a way to engage pupils and as a strategy to develop understanding in more creative ways. Additional 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, which uses a micro:bit

Core principles

Effective and ambitious

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 activities 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 curriculum are a range of pedagogical strategies (defined in the 'Pedagogy' section of this document), which support learning computing topics more accessible.



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 the unit — including a detailed lesson plan, slides for learners, and all the resources you will need; and formative and summative assessments.

Teach Computing Curriculum overview

Unit overview

	Computing systems and networks ¹	Creating media	Programming A
Year 1	Technology around us (1.1)*	Digital painting (1.2)	Moving a robot (1.3)
Year 2	Information technology around us (2.1)	Digital photography (2.2)	Robot algorithms (2.3)

*Units in bold are not part of the key stage 1 national curriculum for computing but the title is used as a strand across the curriculum. The numbers in the brackets are a 'quick code' reference for each unit, eg 1.3 refers to the third Year 1 unit in the curriculum.

t summaries

	Computing systems and networks	Creating media	Programming A
Year 1	<p>Technology around us</p> <p>Recognising technology in school and using it responsibly.</p>	<p>Digital painting</p> <p>Choosing appropriate tools in a program to create art, and making comparisons with working non-digitally.</p>	<p>Moving a robot</p> <p>Writing short algorithms and programs for floor robots, and predicting program outcomes.</p>
Year 2	<p>Information technology around us</p> <p>Identifying IT and how its responsible use improves our world in school and beyond.</p>	<p>Digital photography</p> <p>Capturing and changing digital photographs for different purposes.</p>	<p>Robot algorithms</p> <p>Creating and debugging programs, and using logical reasoning to make predictions.</p>

National Curriculum Coverage — Key Stage 1 Computing Curriculum

1.1 Technology around us

Understand what algorithms are, how they are implemented as programs on digital devices, and that programs execute by following precise and unambiguous instructions

Create and debug simple programs

Use logical reasoning to predict the behaviour of simple programs

Use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content

✓

Recognise common uses of information technology beyond school

✓

Use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private; identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies

✓

What

Why



Teach

Computing

Progression

Progression across key stages

Learning objectives have been mapped to the National Centre for Computing Education's taxonomy of ten strands, which ensures that units build on each other from one key stage to the next.

Progression across year groups

In the Teach Computing Curriculum, every year group is structured through units within the same four themes, which cover the ten strands of the National Centre for Computing Education's taxonomy (see table, right).

This approach allows us to use the spiral curriculum approach (see the 'Spiral curriculum' section for more information) to progress skills and concepts from one year group to the next.

themes	Computing systems and networks
Taxonomy strands	Computer systems Computer networks

Progression within a unit — Learning graphs

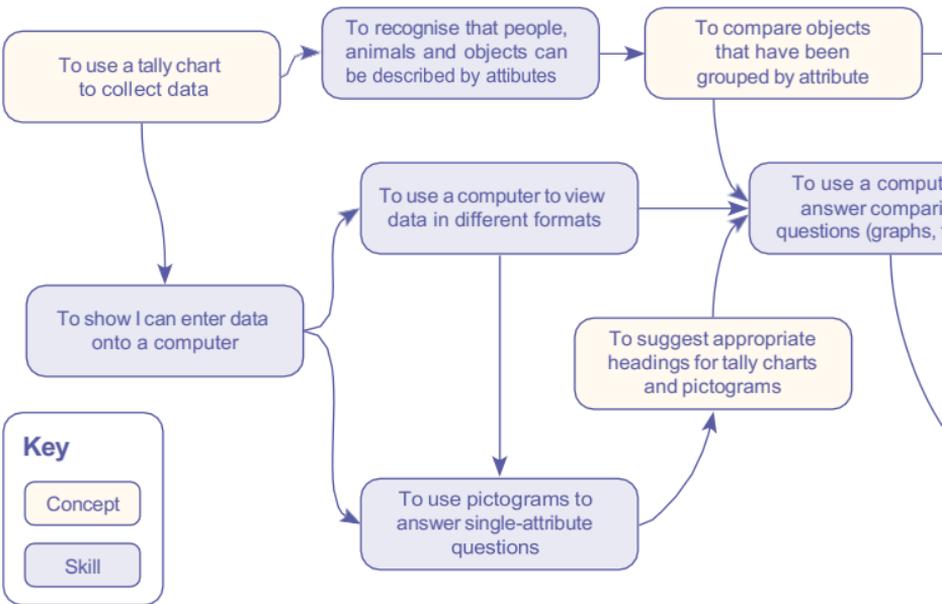
Learning graphs are provided as part of each unit to demonstrate progression through concepts and skills. In order to learn some of those concepts and skills, pupils need prior knowledge of others, so the learning graphs show which concepts and skills need to be taught first and which could be taught at a later time.

Learning graphs often show more statements than there are learning objectives. All of the skills and concepts learnt are included in the learning graphs. Some of these skills and concepts are milestones, which form learning objectives, while others are smaller steps towards these milestones, which form success criteria. Please note that the wording of the statements may be different in the learning graphs in the lessons, as the learning graphs are designed for teachers, whereas the learning objectives and success criteria are age-appropriate so that they can be understood by pupils.



In each year group, there are two 'Programming' units of work, but only one 'Programming' learning graph. The second 'Programming' unit builds on the first.

- Data and Information – Pictograms learning graph



Teach

Computing

Pedagogy

Computing is a broad discipline, and computing teachers use a range of strategies to deliver effective lessons for their pupils. The National Centre for Computing Education's pedagogical approach consists of 12 key principles underpinned by research: each principle has been shown to contribute to effective teaching and learning in computing.

It is recommended that computing teachers use their professional judgement to review, select, and apply relevant strategies for their pupils.

The 12 principles are embodied by the Teach Computing Curriculum, and examples of their application can be found throughout the units of work at every key stage. Beyond delivering these units, you can learn more about these principles and related strategies in the National Centre for Computing Education pedagogy guide (nccpe.io/pedagogy).

Lead with concepts

Support pupils in the acquisition of knowledge through the use of key concepts, terms, and vocabulary. Provide opportunities to build a shared and consistent understanding. Glossaries, concept maps (nccpe.io/gr07), and spaced repetition, with regular recall and revision, can support this.

Structure lessons

Use supportive frameworks when planning lessons, such as PRIMM (Predict, Run, Investigate, Modify, Measure) (nccpe.io/gr11) and Use-Modify-Create. These frameworks are based on research and ensure that different learning objectives are built in at various stages of the lesson.

Make concrete

Bring abstract concepts to life with real-world examples and a focus on interdependencies between curriculum subjects. This can be achieved through a range of unplugged activities, proposing analogies, using examples around concepts, and finding examples of concepts in pupils' lives.

The logo consists of two overlapping orange rectangular boxes. The top box is slightly offset to the left and contains the word 'Teach' in white. The bottom box is slightly offset to the right and contains the word 'Computing' in white.

Read and explore code first

In teaching programming, focus first on code 'reading' activities, before code writing. With both block-based and text-based programming, encourage pupils to review and interpret blocks of code. Research has shown that being able to read, trace, and explain code augments pupils' ability to write code.

Design projects

Use project-based learning activities to provide pupils with opportunity to apply and consolidate their knowledge and understanding. Design is an important, often overlooked aspect of computing. Pupils can consider how to develop an artefact for a particular user or function, and evaluate it against a set of criteria.

Model everything

Model processes or practices — everything from debugging code to binary number conversions — using techniques such as worked examples (nccpe.io/qr02) and modelling (nccpe.io/qr05). Modelling is particularly beneficial to novices, providing scaffolding that can be gradually taken away.

Get hands-on

Use physical computing and making activities to provide tactile and sensory experiences to enhance understanding. Combining electronics and programming with crafts (especially through exploratory projects) provides pupils with a creative, engaging context to apply computing concepts.

Challenge misconceptions

Use formative questioning to uncover misconceptions and adapt teaching to address them as they occur. Addressing common misconceptions alongside direct instruction, concept mapping, peer instruction, or simple questioning can help identify areas of confusion.

Add variety

Provide activities with different levels of difficulty, scaffolding, and support that promote active learning, ranging from highly structured to more exploratory. Adapting your instruction to suit different learning styles can help keep all pupils engaged and encourage independence.

Assessment

Formative assessment

Every lesson includes formative assessment opportunities for teachers to use. These opportunities are built into the lesson plan and are included to ensure that misconceptions are recognised and addressed if they occur. They vary from teacher observation or questioning, to marked activities.

Formative assessments are vital to ensure that teachers are adjusting their teaching to suit the needs of the pupils they are working with, and you are encouraged to integrate parts of the lesson, such as how much time you spend on a specific activity, in response to these assessments.

Learning objectives and success criteria are introduced on slides at the beginning of every lesson. At the end of every lesson, pupils are invited to assess how well they think they have met the learning objective using thumbs up, thumbs sideways, or thumbs down. This gives pupils

a reminder of the content that has been covered and provides as a chance to reflect. It is also a chance for teachers to see how confident the class is feeling so they can make changes to subsequent lessons accordingly.

Summative assessment

Pedagogically, when we assess, we want to ensure we are assessing a pupil's understanding of concepts and skills, as opposed to their rote learning or writing skills. Therefore, we encourage observational assessment while pupils are still developing their skills. We believe that this is the most reliable way to capture an accurate picture of learning.

Observing learning

To capture summative assessment data on learning, we recommend using the success criteria and capturing some of the following while learning is taking place:

Teach

Computing

End of the unit

Pupils working at age-related expectations should be able to meet the success criteria for each lesson by the end of the unit. However, it should also be noted that some pupils may not longer to grasp certain skills and concepts and therefore may not achieve a success criterion from a lesson at a later date.

At the end of a unit, you may wish to use the observations you have made across each of the lessons to determine a general snapshot of a pupil's understanding of the content of that unit.

Assessing for your setting

Where there are no nationally agreed levels of assessment, the assessment materials provided are designed to be used and adapted by schools in a way that best suits their needs. Summative assessment materials will inform teacher assessments around what a pupil has understood in each computing unit, and could feed into a school's assessment process, to align with their approach to assessment in other foundation subjects.



Resources

Software and hardware

Computing is intrinsically linked to technology and therefore requires that pupils experience and use a range of digital tools and devices. As the Teach Computing curriculum was being written, careful consideration was given to the hardware and software selected for the units. The primary consideration was how we felt a tool would allow pupils to meet learning objectives; the learning objectives came first and the tool second.

To make the units of work more accessible to pupils and teachers, the materials include screenshots, videos, and instructions, and these are based on the tools listed in the units below. The list below should not be seen as an equipment requirement for schools. Schools may choose to use alternative tools that offer the same features as those described in the units. All of the learning objectives can be met with alternative hardware and software, as the learning objectives are not designed to be tool-specific.

Software

If you do not wish to use the software recommended in the units, you could use an alternative piece of software that provides the same function. All learning objectives should be achievable using alternative software. There will be a lot less support for teachers in the form of screenshots and demonstration videos for software not referenced in the materials.

The units of work include the use of free software that would need to be installed on local machines. Some software that is available as an online tool does not. If software needs to be installed locally, schools should plan software installation in advance.

Several of the units that use online tools require pupils to sign up to free services in order to access them. This also allows pupils the opportunity to save their work on projects that they are working on, and gives them the skills that they need to manage their own user accounts and passwords as digital citizens. However, the

Teach**Computing**

Software and hardware overview

Requirements for pupils — below

✓ Us

	Desktop or laptop	Chromebook	
1.1 Technology around us	✓	•	
1.2 Digital painting	✓	•	
1.3 Moving a robot			
1.4 Grouping data	✓	•	
1.5 Digital writing	✓	•	
1.6 Programming animations	•	•	
2.1 Information technology around us	✓	•	
2.2 Digital photography	✓		
2.3 Robot algorithms			
2.4 Pictograms	✓	•	
2.5 Making music	✓	•	
2.6 Programming quizzes	•	•	



National Centre for Computing Education

National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) is funded by the Department for Education and marks a significant investment in improving the provision of computing education in England.

NCCE is run by a consortium made up of STEM Learning, the Raspberry Pi Foundation, and BCS, Chartered Institute for IT. Our vision is to achieve world-leading computing education for every child in England.

The NCCE provides high-quality support for the teaching of computing in schools and colleges, from primary school through to A level. Our extensive range of resources, and support covers elements of the curriculum at every key stage, catering for all levels of knowledge and experience.

For further information, visit: [teachcomputing.org.uk](https://www.teachcomputing.org.uk)

This resource is available online at [ncce.io/tcc](https://www.ncce.io/tcc).

This resource is licensed under the Open Government Licence, version 3. For more information on this licence visit [ogon.gov.uk/](https://www.ogon.gov.uk/)

Acknowledgements: We would like to thank the many people who helped to create the Teach Computing Curriculum Framework, including teachers, advisors, reviewers, pilot schools, and every teacher who has taken the time to send us feedback.