



Teacher G

Key Stage 2

guide to the Teach Computing Curriculum

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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

Teach Computing Curriculum overview

Brief overview

Unit summaries

National curriculum coverage —

lower key stage 2

Upper key stage 2

Teaching order

10 Mixed year groups

11 Progression

11 Progression across key stages

11 Progression across year groups

12 Progression within a unit — learning

14 Pedagogy

14 Lead with concepts

14 Structure lessons

14 Make concrete

14 Unplug, unpack, repack

14 Work together

15 Read and explore code first

15 Create projects

15 Model everything

15 Get hands-on

15 Challenge misconceptions

15 Add variety

15

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 British computing curriculum from key stage 1 to 4 (5 to 16-year-olds). The Teach Computing Curriculum was created by the Raspberry Pi Foundation on behalf of the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE). 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 programming
- Demonstrate how computing can be taught through research
- Highlight areas for subject knowledge and skills enhancement through training

The Teach Computing Curriculum resources are 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 with computer systems

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 regularly. It also ensures that connections are made even when different teachers are teaching the units within a theme over 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 intended 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

Each unit of work in the Teach Computing Curriculum contains: a unit overview; a learning graph, to show the progression of learning; a detailed lesson plan, slides for learners, and all the resources you will need; and formative and summative assessments.

Teach Computing Curriculum overview

	Computing systems and networks	Creating media	Programming A
Year 3	Connecting computers (3.1)	Stop-frame animation (3.2)	Sequencing sounds (3.3)
Year 4	The internet (4.1)	Audio editing (4.2)	Repetition in shapes (4.3)
Year 5	Sharing information (5.1)	Video editing (5.2)	Selection in physical computing (5.3)
Year 6	Internet communication (6.1)	Webpage creation (6.2)	Variables in games (6.3)

Unit summaries

	Computing systems and networks	Creating media	Programming A
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>
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 editing</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>

Unit summaries

	Computing systems and networks	Creating media	Programming A
Year 5	<p>Sharing information Identifying and exploring how information is shared between digital systems.</p>	<p>Video editing Planning, capturing, and editing video to produce a short film.</p>	<p>Selection in physical computing Exploring conditions and selection using a programmable microcontroller.</p>
Year 6	<p>Internet communication Recognising how the WWW can be used to communicate and be searched to find information.</p>	<p>Webpage creation Designing and creating webpages, giving consideration to copyright, aesthetics, and navigation.</p>	<p>Variables in games Exploring variables when designing and coding a game.</p>

National Curriculum Coverage — Years 3 and 4

3.1 Connecting

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

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

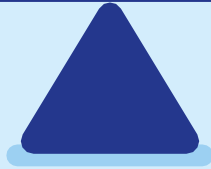
Use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and be discerning in evaluating digital content

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

What

Why



Teach

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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 split into units through units within the same four themes, which combine 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.

Primary themes	Computing systems and networks
Taxonomy strands	Computer systems
	Computer networks

Progression within a unit — Learning graphs

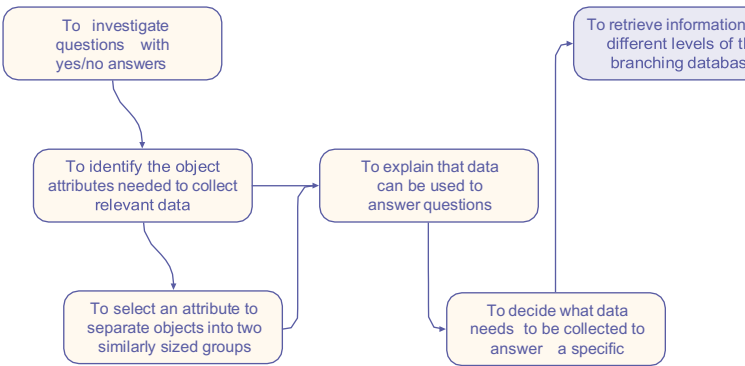
Learning graphs are provided as part of each unit to demonstrate progression through concepts and skills. In order to learn some of those concepts and skills, pupils need prior knowledge of others, so the learning graphs show which concepts and skills need to be taught first and which could be taught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

- Branching databases – learning graph



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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/qr07), and regular recall and revision, can support this.

Structure lessons

Use supportive frameworks when planning lessons, such as PRIMM (Predict, Run, Investigate, Modify, Create) — nccpe.io/qr11) and Use-Modify-Create. These are based on research and ensure that different skills can be built in at various stages of the lesson.

Make concrete

Bring abstract concepts to life with real-world examples and a focus on interdependencies across curriculum subjects. This can be achieved through a range of unplugged activities, proposing analogies, 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.

Computing

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 the 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 all processes or practices — everything from debugging code to binary number conversions — using techniques such as worked examples (nccpe.io/qr02) and live coding (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 arise. Awareness of common misconceptions allows for targeted discussion, concept mapping, peer instruction, and simple quizzes 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 helps keep all pupils engaged and encourages independence.

Assessment

Formative assessment

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

Formative assessments are vital to ensure that teachers are adapting their teaching to suit the needs of the pupils they are working with, and you are encouraged to vary different parts of the lesson, such as how much time to 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

Every unit includes an optional summative assessment framework in the form of either a multiple choice question (MCQ) or a rubric. All units are designed to assess skills and concepts from across the computing curriculum. Units that focus more on conceptual development include an MCQ. Units that focus more on skills development end with a project and a rubric. However, within the 'Programming' units, an assessment framework (MCQ or rubric) has to be selected on a best-fit basis.

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Computing

age group. It allows teachers to assess projects pupils have created, focussing on the appropriate application of computing skills and concepts.

Pedagogically, we want to ensure that we are assessing pupils' understanding of computing concepts and skills, not just their reading and writing skills. This has been carefully considered both in how MCQs have been written (considerations such as the language used, the real experiences referenced, etc) and in the skills expected to be demonstrated in the rubric.

Adapting for your setting

There are no nationally agreed levels of assessment, so the assessment materials provided are designed to be modified and adapted by schools in a way that best suits their needs. The summative assessment materials will be based on teacher judgements 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 Teaching 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 best allow pupils to meet learning objectives; the learning always 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 materials below. The list below should not be seen as an explicit requirement for schools. Schools may choose to use alternative tools that offer the same features as 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. However, there will be a lot less support for this software, so as screenshots and demonstration videos of the software 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 require software needs to be installed locally, so schools will need to 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 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

Software and hardware overview

Requirements for pupils — below

	Desktop or laptop	Chromebook	
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 editing	✓		
4.3 Repetition in shapes	✓	•	
4.4 Data logging	✓	+	
4.5 Photo editing	✓	•	
4.6 Repetition in games	✓	•	

Used for the unit — reflected in screenshots • Could be used as an alternative + Data loggers that work with Chrom

Software and hardware overview, cont.

Requirements for pupils — below

	Desktop or laptop	Chromebook	
5.1 Sharing information	✓	●	
5.2 Video editing	✓	●	
5.3 Selection in physical computing	✓	●	
5.4 Flat-file databases	✓	●	
5.5 Vector drawing	✓	●	
5.6 Selection in quizzes	✓	●	
6.1 Internet communication	✓	●	
6.2 Webpage creation	✓	●	
6.3 Variables in games	✓	●	
6.4 Introduction to spreadsheets	✓	●	
6.5 3D modelling	✓	●	
6.6 Sensing	✓	●	

Used for the unit — reflected in screenshots ● Could be used as an alternative



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).

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