

COMPUTING & ICT POLICY

2020-2021



HABITAT SCHOOL
AL JURF, AJMAN

Policy creation date: 5/4/2020

Next review date: Sep 2022

Members of the committee

- Mr. Wasim Yousuf Bhat - Dean
- Mr. Bala Reddy Ambati - Principal
- Mr. Suresh Sukumar - Vice Principal
- Mr. Hamza Kollath - Administrative Officer
- Ms. Thasni Shahal - Software Analyst
- Mr. Boney R - School System Administrator
- Ms. Faizal Nujumudeen- Head of Computer Science Department
- Ms Shaila Ahmed - Supervisor Grade 2

Introduction

At school, we believe that Computing is an integral part of preparing children to live in a world where technology is continuously and rapidly evolving, so much so that children are being prepared to work with technology that doesn't even exist yet. For this reason, we feel that it is important that children are able to participate in the creation of these new tools to fully grasp the relevance of and the possibilities of emerging technologies thus preparing them for the world of work.

Purpose

The school follows the Cyber Square curriculum for Grade 1 to Grade 8. For Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 the school follows CBSE curriculum. High quality teaching of Computing, from Grade 1 to Grade 8, utilizes a combination of practical lessons and theory lessons designed to promote discussion and nurture understanding, which are also relevant to other areas of the curriculum.

This policy reflects the values and philosophy in relation to the teaching and learning of and with computer science. This policy should be read in conjunction with the scheme of learning for Computing that sets out in detail what children in different year groups will be taught and how computer science can facilitate or enhance learning in other curriculum areas.

Aims

Computer Science

- To enable children to become confident coders on a range of devices.
- To create opportunities for collaborative and independent learning.
- To develop children's understanding of technology and how it is constantly evolving.

Digital Literacy

- To enable a safe computing environment through appropriate computing behaviors.
- To allow children to explore a range of digital devices.
- To promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Information Technology

- To develop ICT as a cross-curricular tool for learning and progression.
- To promote learning through the development of thinking skills.
- To enable children to understand and appreciate their place in the modern world.

In order to develop the Computing and ICT capability and understanding of each child we will provide through our planning:

- Computing through all three strands taught within the classroom.
- Continuity throughout the school to ensure that experience and skills are developed in a cohesive and consistent way.
- Access to computers within class or in designated communal areas.
- Experience of a variety of well-planned, structured and progressive activities.

Objectives

Experience cross-curricular links to widen children's knowledge of the capability of computing including safe use of the Internet and other digital equipment. Opportunities for children to recognize the value of computing and ICT in their everyday lives and their future working life as active participants in a digital world.

Equal Opportunities, Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

It is our policy to ensure that all children, regardless of race, class or gender, should have the opportunity to develop computing and computer science knowledge. We aim to respond to children needs and overcome potential barriers for individuals and groups of children by:

- Ensuring that all children follow the scheme of learning for Computing.
- Providing curriculum materials and programmes, which are in no way class, gender or racially prejudiced or biased.
- Providing opportunities for our children who do not have access at home to use the school computers/Internet to develop independent learning.
- Providing suitable challenges for more able children, as well as support for those who have emerging needs.
- Responding to the diversity of children's social, cultural and ethnographical backgrounds.
- Overcoming barriers to learning through the use of assessment and additional support.

- Communication or language difficulties by developing computing skills through the use of all their individual senses and strengths.
- Movement or physical difficulties by developing computing skills through utilizing their individual strengths.
- Behavioral or emotional difficulties (including stress and trauma) by developing the understanding and management of their own learning behaviours.

Assessment

As in all other subjects, children should be assessed and appraised of their progress in understanding and applying computing skills. Teacher assessments of computing capability will be recorded throughout the year and reported to parents at the end of each academic year. Staff should keep or save examples of pupils' work and sufficiently detailed records to form a judgment on each pupil's level of attainment at the end of each key stage. Formative assessment occurs on a lesson-by-lesson basis determined by the aims. An online learning management system, Cyber Square is used to assess the students periodically.

Security, Legislation, Copyright and Data Protection

We ensure that the school community is kept safe by ensuring that:

- The use of ICT and computing will be in line with the school's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).
- All staff, volunteers and children must sign a copy of the schools AUP.
- Parents are made aware of the AUP at school entry.
- All children are aware of the school rules for responsible use on login to the school network and will understand the consequence of any misuse.
- Reminders for safe and responsible use of ICT and computing and the Internet will be displayed in all areas.
- Software/apps installed onto the school network server must have been vetted by the teacher for suitable educational content before being purchased and installed. No personal software is to be loaded onto school computers. Further information can be found in the school's Data Protection policy.

Teaching and Learning

The schools Scheme of Learning is based on the CBSE Curriculum guidelines. All units of teaching and learning are differentiated. Digital projectors are positioned in all classrooms and are used as a teaching and learning resource across the curriculum.

Across Grade 1 to Grade 12, our children will use technology to:

- Learn Programming by, program on screen, through animation, develop games (simple and interactive) and to develop simple mobile apps.
- Develop their computational thinking through filming, exploring how computer games work, finding and correcting bugs in programs, creating interactive toys, cracking codes and developing project management skills.
- Develop computing creativity by taking and editing digital images, shooting and editing videos, producing digital music, creating geometrical art and creating video and web copy for mobile phone apps.

Teacher's planning is differentiated to meet the range of needs in each class. A wide range of teaching and learning styles are employed to ensure all children are sufficiently challenged. Children may be required to work individually, in pairs or in small groups according to the nature of the task. Different outcomes may be expected depending on the ability and needs of the individual child.

Internet Safety

Internet access is planned to enrich and extend learning activities across the curriculum. However, we have acknowledged the need to ensure that all pupils are responsible and safe users of the Internet and other communication technologies both in school and outside. An AUP for Internet Usage is developed and students are made aware of the same.

Monitoring

Monitoring termly enables the HOD to gain an overview of Computing and ICT teaching and learning throughout the school. This will assist the school in the self-evaluation process identifying areas of strength as well as those for development. In monitoring the quality of Computing and ICT teaching and learning, the HOD will:

- Observe teaching and learning in the classroom.
- Hold discussions with teachers and children.
- Analyze children's work
- Examine plans to ensure full coverage of the Computing and cross-curricular ICT requirements.

Review

This policy will be reviewed as it is deemed appropriate, but no less frequently than every 2 year. The policy review will be undertaken by the Principal, or nominated representative.

Contact

- If you have any queries or concerns regarding this policy then please contact ranir@ajm.habitatschool.org.

This policy is linked with all the other policies of the School.