

SEND- Ambition and Access in Computing

Ambition – What are we aiming for children with SENs to achieve in this subject?

- All children regardless of ability should feel as though their opinion and contribution is valued and valid.
- Children know ways to keep safe and happy and how to seek help/support if they consider themselves not to be.

Access – What amendments are made to the subject in order to help children with SENs to achieve?

Ensuring that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) have access to computing education in primary school is essential for their overall development and digital literacy. Computing education equips children with valuable skills for the digital age. Here are strategies and considerations for providing effective SEND support in computing in a primary school setting:

Personal Plan:

- Develop IEPs or ISPs for children with SEND in computing. These plans should outline clear, measurable goals and strategies to help children engage in computing activities and achieve learning outcomes, for example, when learning to touch type through Nessy.

Collaboration and Communication:

- Collaborate closely with special education professionals, parents, and caregivers to understand the unique needs of children with SEND in outcomes. Maintain open and regular communication to discuss progress, goals, and strategies.

Accessible Hardware and Software:

- Ensure that computing hardware and software are accessible and compatible with assistive technology devices or software that children with SEND may use.
- Provide access to adaptive input devices, screen readers, or text-to-speech software as needed.

Differentiated Instruction:

- Tailor computing instruction to accommodate diverse learning styles, abilities, and communication methods.
- Offer a variety of teaching strategies, including visual aids, hands-on activities, simulations, and multimedia resources, to engage pupils.

Visual and Multisensory Materials:

- Provide visual aids, diagrams, images, and tactile materials to support childrens' understanding of computing concepts, programming, and digital tools.
- Incorporate multisensory activities, such as interactive coding games or object-based learning, to make computing more engaging and accessible.

Adaptive Technology:

- Utilise adaptive technology tools and apps designed for children with SEND to facilitate learning and participation in computing.
- Ensure children have access to any necessary assistive technology devices or resources.

Inclusive Classroom Environment:

- Foster an inclusive classroom environment where pupils with SEND in computing feel valued and included in all discussions and tasks.
- Encourage collaborative learning and peer support among pupils.

Flexible Assessment:

- Modify assessment methods to accommodate the unique abilities and challenges of each student with SEND.
- Allow for alternative ways of demonstrating understanding, such as project-based assessments, verbal explanations, or multimedia presentations.

Digital Citizenship and Safety:

- Teach digital citizenship and online safety as integral components of computing education. Ensure that children with SEND understand and can apply online safety principles.

Sensory Considerations:

- Be mindful of sensory sensitivities or challenges that some children with SEND may have. Create a comfortable and non-disruptive learning environment that minimises sensory distractions.

Coding and Programming Accessibility:

- Use coding platforms and programming environments that offer accessibility features, such as text-to-speech support, keyboard shortcuts, or large fonts.
- Provide coding challenges that can be tailored to individual children's abilities and interests.

By implementing these strategies and creating an inclusive computing environment, primary school educators can help children with SEND develop essential digital skills, problem-solving abilities, and a greater sense of confidence in using technology. Regular assessment and communication with children, parents, and specialists are essential components of effective SEND support in computing.