

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Digital Technologies Policy

Rationale

St Francis Xavier recognises the growing importance of Digital Technologies in our interconnected world. This policy outlines our commitment to providing a comprehensive, progressive, and engaging Digital Technologies specialist area, designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in a digital age. This policy will guide the teaching of digital technologies from basic computer literacy in junior years, through to advanced coding, robotics, and IoT concepts (The Internet of Things and their connections) in senior years. By implementing this Digital Technologies specialist subject policy, SFX will empower its students to become confident, creative, and responsible digital citizens, prepared to thrive in the digital age.

Purpose:

At St Francis Xavier, we aim to:

- Develop Foundational Digital Literacy: Ensure all students acquire essential computer skills, including operating systems, software applications, and safe internet practices.
- Foster Computational Thinking: Cultivate students' abilities to break down complex problems, identify patterns, and design algorithmic solutions.
- Promote Coding and Programming Skills: Develop students' proficiency in coding languages and programming environments, progressing from visual programming to text-based coding.
- Introduce Robotics and IoT Concepts: Provide students with hands-on experience in building and programming robots, and exploring the principles of the Internet of Things (IoT).
- Encourage Digital Creativity and Innovation: Empower students to use digital tools and technologies to create original content, solve problems, and express their ideas.
- Promote Responsible and Ethical Digital Citizenship: Educate students about online safety, digital etiquette, and the ethical implications of technology use.
- Ensure Equitable Access and Inclusion: Provide all students, regardless of background or ability, with equal opportunities to engage in Digital Technologies learning.

Curriculum Framework

At St Francis Xavier Primary School, the Digital Technologies specialist subject will be structured as follows:

Junior Years:

Basic computer operation and navigation.

Introduction to software applications (e.g., word processing, G Suite, MS Office, drawing tools).

Safe and responsible internet use.

Introduction to digital storytelling.

Basic digital safety, and cyber awareness.

Middle Years:

Developing proficiency in software applications. (G Suite, MS Office)

Introduction to visual programming (e.g., Scratch).

Basic web design and development.

Data collection and analysis.

Introduction to algorithms and problem-solving.

Digital media creation.

Senior Years:

Advanced coding and programming using CSFirst and Grok academy.

Robotics and automation (e.g., using robotics kits).

Introduction to IoT concepts and applications.

Cybersecurity and digital forensics.

Developing digital solutions to real-world problems.

Ethical considerations in digital technologies.

Proficient use of G Suite and MS Office in preparation for Secondary School and beyond.

Implementation

At St Francis Xavier Primary School:

- We provide access to a well-equipped Digital Technologies lab with up-to-date computers, software, robotics kits, and IoT devices.
- Lessons are based on the Victorian Curriculum Digital Technologies area and the Digital Technologies Hub

- Emphasis is on Hands-on Activities, experiments, and design challenges.
- Collaboration and Teamwork: Encourage students to work collaboratively and develop their teamwork skills.
- Real-World Applications: Connect Digital Technologies concepts to real-world applications and examples.
- Online Resources and Platforms: Utilise online resources and platforms to enhance learning and provide students with access to a wide range of tools and information.
- The Digital Technology budget caters for subscriptions, programs, consumables etc. used in the Digital Technologies space and throughout the school.

Safety and Ethical Considerations

At St Francis Xavier Primary School we:

- Implement strict online safety protocols and procedures.
- Educate students about digital etiquette and responsible online behaviour.
- Address ethical considerations related to data privacy, intellectual property, and cybersecurity.
- Ensure all digital technologies activities are conducted in a safe and responsible manner.

Evaluation:

This policy will be revisited every odd year (e.g. 2025, 2027) and reviewed as part of the School's Review cycle or as changes are made to the Victorian Curriculum.