Computing Curriculum Statement

We understand that computing can be a challenging subject, particularly for pupils with SEMH and EBSA needs. Our approach is trauma-informed and flexible, ensuring that every pupil has access to supportive and engaging learning experiences.

Through structured teaching, personalised support, and high expectations, we enable all pupils at Melksham House School to develop computing skills that will empower them in education, employment, and beyond.

An ambitious and rigorous curriculum

At Melksham House School, we believe that computing is a vital skill for the modern world, equipping pupils with the knowledge, creativity, and problem-solving abilities they need to succeed in education, employment, and everyday life. Our ambitious and inclusive computing curriculum ensures that all pupils, regardless of their Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) needs or experiences of Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA), develop confidence and competence in digital literacy, computational thinking, and computer science.

We recognise that our pupils may have gaps in their computing knowledge due to disrupted education. To address this, we use robust assessment and targeted interventions to ensure personalised learning pathways that enable progress and achievement.

Assessment and Personalised Learning

Our computing curriculum follows the Barefoot Computing scheme, which provides a structured and engaging approach to developing computational thinking and digital skills. Through this scheme, pupils:

- Learn core computing concepts, including algorithms, programming, data representation, and networks.
- Develop problem-solving and logical reasoning skills to support computational thinking.
- Gain confidence in using a variety of software and digital tools for creative and practical applications.
- Build an understanding of online safety, digital citizenship, and the ethical implications of technology.

Lessons are adapted to individual needs, ensuring accessibility and engagement for all pupils, with an emphasis on practical application and hands-on learning. Pupils are assessed through the Earwig Assessment Framework, and against the relevant pathway outcomes for our pupils who chose to develop this subject further into a qualification.

Pathways to Success:

We provide a clear progression of qualifications to ensure all pupils leave with recognised achievements that support their future aspirations. Pupils work towards:

- **Entry Level Computing** – providing a foundation in digital literacy and essential IT skills.
- **Functional Skills ICT (Levels 1 & 2)** – developing practical computing skills for further education and employment.
- **GCSE Computer Science** – for those who wish to explore computing in depth, focusing on programming, computational theory, and digital systems.

Success in computing at Melksham House School is defined not only by qualifications but also by the development of confidence and practical digital skills. We define success as:

- **Demonstrating progress** in problem-solving, logical thinking, and digital literacy.
- **Gaining proficiency** in coding, programming, and using software for real-world applications.
- **Developing independence** in navigating digital tools and technologies effectively.
- **Understanding digital safety** and responsible technology use.
- **Applying computational thinking** to everyday challenges and future learning opportunities.