

ICT

AIMS

ICT is an integral part of learning at Villa Real School. It is taught as a discrete subject and in a cross curricular manner imbedded into the pupil/student's learning across other subjects from EYFS to Key Stage 5.

The aim of ICT at Villa Real is to enable each pupil/student to develop their ICT skills in order to access lessons and activities, promote motivation and enjoyment of lessons and activities and to provide them the skills needed to use ICT effectively outside of the school environment.

CONTENT

ICT, for some of our pupils/students, means exploring sensory experiences through the use of ICT resources, for example; a variety of interactive wall panels, light boxes, bubble tubes, fibre optic lights as well as other electrical items which can provide cause and effect activities.

ICT is also used for enhancing and developing communication skills through the use of a variety of different switch types, such as Big Mack switches. These switches can be used in order for pupils/students to engage with and be part of activities, making comments and also for carrying messages to each other and staff. Some pupils also have access to Eye Gaze Systems – a system which uses the movement and gaze of the human eye to aid effective communication.

Each class also has access to an Interactive White Board at least 1 class computer, class iPad and also a time tabled slot to use an iPad trolley providing allocated time for each pupil to have access to an iPad. The iPads work well as a motivator for pupils/students and they provide engaging and accessible activities.

All pupils/students are learning about Online Safety and 'Gooseberry Planet', a games based Online Safety website, is currently being used in school on class computers.

EYFS to KS3 National Curriculum is taught via a progressive programme Switched On IT.

Where appropriate from KS3 – KS5, a specialist ICT trainer provides Pre-Entry and Entry curriculum with sequential learning.

Students access a range of ICT programmes that teach computing skills as well as literacy and numeracy e.g. Lexia, Clicker 7.

PEDAGOGY

ICT is a subject in which all pupils/students are highly motivated by, and which all pupils/students are able to access easily at their own level. It is used to support the learning of other subjects, enabling them to gain access and engage fully in their learning, providing means of communication and also a variety of learning experiences.

The curriculum is mapped via a progression model to develop knowledge, skills and understanding, however in rare cases some complex pupils including those with degenerative conditions, may have planning which aims to sustain.

ASSESSMENT

ICT assessment takes place through observations, questioning and also written work (when appropriate). Currently we use REAL Progress alongside B Squared as our assessment tool for monitoring and recording data in ICT. Pupils/students in KS4 and above are assessed using EDEXCEL.

EVALUATION

We ensure that the ICT curriculum is reviewed and evaluated annually and that it is still relevant and useful in supporting our pupils'/students' learning and meeting their communication needs. ICT developments are constantly changing and it is important that we remain up to date with current technologies and show pupils how to use these safely, thus preparing them for life outside of school.