

## COMPUTER SKILLS – OVERVIEW

### Overview

This unit introduces Year 1 students to the foundational physical and practical skills needed to use digital devices safely, carefully, and effectively. It focuses on developing students' confidence in interacting with computers and tablets through accurate control, purposeful use, and respectful handling of equipment.

Students begin by learning how to use input devices such as a mouse, touchscreen, and keyboard, developing fine motor control and accuracy through structured and supportive activities. They are introduced to creating simple digital content, including pictures and short pieces of text, and learn that digital work can be changed, improved, and revisited.

The unit also introduces the concept of saving and retrieving work, helping students understand that digital creations can be stored and accessed again. This supports students in developing independence and care when using technology.

The focus of the unit is on building secure foundational skills rather than technical knowledge. More complex ideas, such as file systems or independent device management, are deliberately avoided so that students can develop confidence, control, and positive habits that will support all future computing learning.

Knowledge and understanding	Computing concepts
To understand that digital devices can be controlled using input devices.	Input devices
To use technology to create digital content.	Creating digital content
To understand that digital work can be saved and opened again.	Files and saving
To develop control and accuracy when using technology.	Control and precision
To recognise the importance of using equipment carefully and safely.	Responsible use of technology

### The Computing Curriculum

You can see where the knowledge and understanding developed in this unit fits into the computing curriculum in the table below:

Prior Learning	Future Learning
EYFS Unit: Paint software	Year 2 Unit: Word processing
	Year 3 Unit: Presentations
	Year 4 Unit: Intermediate spreadsheets
	Year 5 Unit: Blogging
	Year 6 Unit: Introduction to AI

## Cross-curricular links and extension activities

This unit provides opportunities for cross-curricular links with art, as students create and edit digital drawings using simple tools and colour choices. Links to English are made through typing simple words and sentences, supporting early writing skills and letter recognition. Fine motor development is supported throughout the unit through careful mouse, touch, and keyboard control.

Links to PSHE are embedded through learning about caring for equipment, working safely, and developing responsible habits when using shared technology. Students are encouraged to take turns, respect devices, and follow agreed classroom routines.

The unit also supports students' wider development by building confidence, independence, and resilience. Students learn that mistakes are a normal part of using technology and that tools such as undo and edit can help them improve their work in a positive and supportive way.