



# EDGEWOOD ACADEMY

## Digital Skills Curriculum Rationale

At Edgewood Academy, the Digital Skills curriculum is a bespoke, carefully designed programme grounded in self-developed National Curriculum objectives tailored specifically for vulnerable primary-aged students aged 7-14 with complex SEND needs. This bespoke approach is essential to meet the unique requirements of our learners, many of whom have experienced disrupted education and require therapeutic support to bridge significant gaps in learning. The curriculum integrates a therapeutic ethos with a 1:1 iPad learning environment, enabling personalised, accessible, and engaging digital learning experiences that foster creativity, communication, and independence.

This curriculum meets and extends the core aims of the National Curriculum by focusing on digital literacy, computational thinking, and practical technology use, adapted to the developmental and emotional needs of our students. It ensures coverage of key digital skills while allowing flexibility to respond to individual EHCP targets and therapeutic goals, making it highly relevant and appropriate for our pupils. The curriculum is aspirational in setting achievable yet challenging goals that promote confidence and resilience, preparing students for successful reintegration into mainstream education or future pathways.

Moreover, the curriculum aligns with the Economic Future Skills Forum 2030 by embedding critical future skills such as creativity, digital literacy, communication, collaboration, and emotional intelligence. Through technology, students develop essential competencies for the modern workforce while simultaneously receiving therapeutic support that enhances emotional regulation and executive functioning. This dual focus supports holistic development, ensuring students are not only digitally competent but also emotionally ready to engage with the world beyond school.

## Whole School Aims

The Digital Skills curriculum is deeply embedded in Edgewood Academy's vision of being **SAFE, SUPPORTED, INSPIRED**:



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- **Safe to Grow:** The curriculum is delivered within a therapeutic, nurturing environment that prioritises emotional safety, enabling students to explore digital technologies confidently and without fear.
- **Inspired to Innovate:** Technology is harnessed innovatively to ignite curiosity and creativity, empowering students to become active creators and problem solvers, not just consumers.
- **Connected to Community:** Digital learning fosters communication and collaboration, linking students with peers, families, and wider communities, thus building social capital and empathy.
- **Rooted in Excellence:** High expectations challenge students to progress at their own pace, unlocking personal potential and preparing them for future academic, social, and vocational success.

This curriculum supports the school's core aims by providing personalised learning pathways that nurture individuality, promote engagement through technology, and integrate therapeutic strategies to support wellbeing and learning readiness.

### Subject Vision

Edgewood Academy teaches Digital Skills to empower vulnerable students with the confidence, competence, and creativity needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world. The intent is to provide a curriculum that is both accessible and aspirational, enabling students to:

- Develop foundational digital literacy and practical technology skills tailored to their cognitive and emotional needs.
- Use technology as a tool for communication, creativity, and self-expression, supporting emotional regulation and engagement.
- Bridge educational gaps caused by previous disrupted or unsuitable placements, ensuring continuity and progression.
- Prepare for future learning and employment by embedding the Economic Future Skills Forum 2030 priorities: critical thinking, creativity, digital literacy, communication, collaboration, and emotional intelligence.

This vision is aligned with the school's improvement priorities, particularly the enhancement of teaching through therapeutic and technology integration, improving



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student outcomes through personalised support, and preparing students for the future with relevant skills.

### Communication with Stakeholders

To ensure successful implementation and understanding of the Digital Skills curriculum rationale, Edgewood Academy will:

- Share the curriculum rationale clearly and accessibly with staff through dedicated CPD sessions, emphasising the integration of therapeutic approaches and technology use.
- Communicate with parents and carers via newsletters, workshops, and digital platforms, explaining how digital skills support their child's personalised learning and wellbeing.
- Engage local authority partners and multi-agency teams by providing detailed curriculum overviews and progress reports, demonstrating alignment with EHCP outcomes and SEND priorities.
- Use student-friendly materials and digital portfolios to involve learners in understanding their progress and goals.
- Maintain open channels for feedback and collaboration to continuously refine the curriculum in response to stakeholder input.

This approach reflects the school's commitment to connectedness and transparency, fostering a collaborative community around each student's learning journey.

### Addressing Inspection Feedback

While the most recent Ofsted inspection provided no specific feedback, this curriculum rationale proactively addresses key areas aligned with the 2025 OFSTED framework and local SEND priorities:

- **Quality of Education:** The bespoke Digital Skills curriculum ensures a broad, balanced, and inclusive offer that meets the academic and personal development needs of all students, supporting continuity and progression.
- **Personal Development and Wellbeing:** By embedding therapeutic strategies alongside technology use, the curriculum supports emotional regulation and resilience, crucial for vulnerable learners.



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- **Leadership and Management:** The curriculum supports leadership priorities by aligning with Stoke-on-Trent's SEND strategy and promoting inclusive, innovative practice.
- **Achievement:** The curriculum is designed to close gaps caused by previous educational disruption, ensuring students make meaningful progress at their own pace.
- **Preparation for the Future:** By incorporating the Economic Future Skills Forum 2030 competencies, the curriculum equips students with essential skills for lifelong learning and employment.

This rationale demonstrates a clear, coherent, and aspirational curriculum offer that supports Edgewood Academy's mission and prepares students to succeed in a rapidly evolving digital society.