INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION TO KEY STAGE 3

At Key Stage 3, pupils are given opportunities to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired at Key Stage 2, developing a growing awareness of the relevance and plausibility of information and begin to identify and question bias in sources.

Pupils are taught to become increasingly independent users of ICT and aware of the way in which ICT tools and information sources can help them in their work. Pupils are encouraged to draw upon their experiences of using ICT to form judgements about its value in supporting their work.

Pupils are encouraged to communicate their experiences, compare the use of ICT with other methods and discuss the wider impact of ICT on society. Pupils are given opportunities to become aware of new developments in ICT and consider the social, economic, ethical and moral issues raised by the impact of the use of ICT.

Pupils use ICT to analyse and interpret data and produce new information on which to draw conclusions. Pupils are encouraged to develop their ICT skills at a rate that is appropriate to their ability. Pupils undertake tasks that are progressively more demanding. The more able are encouraged to complete tasks that require higher level skills to

AIMS

* To provide pupils with a broad ICT curriculum

* To stimulate curiosity, interest and enjoy the study of ICT

* To promote the interest in the use of ICT to produce work for other curriculum areas

* To allow pupils to use modern technology and topics appropriate to their study needs

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The school operates a dual server RM Network, which provides facilities in six separate rooms. This is well supported by two full time technicians. The department has also spent portions of its capitation on peripheral items such as laser printers, colour printers, digital cameras, netbooks, raspberry Pi's and flat bed scanners. Hardware facilities can be described as good.

The software available for use is also extensive. The department operates a policy of purchasing a wide range of software. This enables pupils to enjoy a wide range of learning experiences and to eventually be able to choose suitable software when problem solving.

Key Stage 3 projects are written with emphasis placed on relevant, scenario based activities that promote problem solving through levelled tasks. Tasks cover skills, knowledge and understanding to promote ICT capability.

Microsoft Office applications such as Word, Publisher, PowerPoint, Excel and Access are used, as well as other industry applications such as Fireworks, Audacity, Movie Maker and Serif (animation). Classes are taught at all levels throughout the school.

The national curriculum strands that are delivered include:-

◊   Find & Analyse Information

◊   Create & Communicate Information

A variety of teaching styles are employed to suit the activity, including exposition and demonstration, collaborative, exploring information and computer based learning packages.