Year 3 – Connecting computers

Unit introduction

Learners will develop their understanding of digital devices, with an initial focus on inputs, processes, and outputs. They will also compare digital and non-digital devices. Next, learners will be introduced to computer networks, including devices that make up a network's infrastructure, such as wireless access points and switches. Finally, learners will discover the benefits of connecting devices in a network.

Overview of lessons

Lesson	**Brief overview**	**Learning objectives**
1 How does a digital device work?	This lesson introduces the concepts of input, process, and output. These concepts are fundamental to all digital devices.	To explain how digital devices function • I can explain that digital devices accept inputs • I can explain that digital devices produce outputs • I can follow a process
2 What parts make up a digital device?	Learners will develop their knowledge of the relationship between inputs, processes, and outputs and apply it to devices and parts of devices that they will be familiar with from their everyday surroundings.	To identify input and output devices • I can classify input and output devices • I can describe a simple process • I can design a digital device
3 How do digital devices help us?	Learners will apply their learning from Lessons 1 and 2 by using programs in conjunction with inputs and outputs on a digital device. They will create two pieces of work with the same focus, using digital devices to create one piece of work, and non-digital tools to create the other. Learners will then compare and contrast the two approaches.	To recognise how digital devices can change the way that we work • I can explain how I use digital devices for different activities • I can recognise similarities between using digital devices and using non-digital tools

		• I can suggest differences between using digital devices and using non-digital tools
4 How am I connected?	Many digital devices are now connected to other digital devices, eg computers through wires, tablets through Wi-Fi, and smartphones through mobile phone networks. The benefit of connecting digital devices is that it allows information to be shared between users and systems. This lesson introduces the concept of connections and moving information between connected devices. Learners will learn to explain how and why computers are joined together to form networks.	To explain how a computer network can be used to share information • I can recognise different connections • I can explain how messages are passed through multiple connections • I can discuss why we need a network switch
5 How are computers connected?	This lesson introduces key network components, including a server and wireless access points. Learners will examine each device's functionality and look at the benefits of networking computers.	To explore how digital devices can be connected • I can recognise that a computer network is made up of a number of devices • I can demonstrate how information can be passed between devices • I can explain the role of a switch, server, and wireless access point in a network
6 What does our school network look like?	Learners will further develop their understanding of computer networks. They will see examples of network infrastructure in a real-world setting and relate them to the activities in Lesson 5.	To recognise the physical components of a network • I can identify how devices in a network are connected together • I can identify networked devices around me

		• I can identify the benefits of computer networks

Progression

This unit progresses learners' knowledge and understanding of technology by focusing on digital and non-digital devices, and introducing the concept of computers connected together as a network. Following this unit, learners will explore the internet as a network of networks.

Curriculum links
National curriculum links

Computing

- use sequence, selection, and repetition in programs; work with variables and various forms of input and output
- understand computer networks including the internet; how they can provide multiple services, such as the World Wide Web; and the opportunities they offer for communication and collaboration
- select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information

Maths (Lesson 1)

- **Number and place value:** solve number problems and practical problems involving these ideas.

Art (Lesson 3)

- to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials [for example, pencil, charcoal, paint, clay]

Year 3 – Stop-frame animation

Unit introduction

Learners will use a range of techniques to create a stop-frame animation using tablets. Next, they will apply those skills to create a story-based animation. This unit will conclude with learners adding other types of media to their animation, such as music and text.

Overview of lessons

Lesson	Brief overview	Learning objectives
1 Can a picture move?	Learners will discuss whether they think a picture can move. They will learn about simple animation techniques and create their own animations in the style of flip books (flick books) using sticky notes.	To explain that animation is a sequence of drawings or photographs • I can draw a sequence of pictures • I can create an effective flip book—style animation • I can explain how an animation/flip book works
2 Frame by frame	In the previous lesson, learners created their own flip book–style animations. In this lesson, they will develop this knowledge and apply it to make a stop-frame animation using a tablet.	To relate animated movement with a sequence of images • I can predict what an animation will look like • I can explain why little changes are needed for each frame • I can create an effective stop-frame animation
3 What's the story?	Remind the learners of the animations that we created last week and tell them that next week we will use tablets to animate some of our own stories. Tell the learners that during this lesson they will create a storyboard showing the characters, settings and events that they would like to include in their own stop-frame animation next week.	To plan an animation • I can break down a story into settings, characters and events • I can describe an animation that is achievable on screen • I can create a storyboard

4 Picture perfect	In the previous lesson, learners planned out their own stop-frame animations in a storyboard. This lesson, they will use tablets to carefully create stop-frame animations, paying attention to consistency.	To identify the need to work consistently and carefully • I can use onion skinning to help me make small changes between frames • I can review a sequence of frames to check my work • I can evaluate the quality of my animation
5 Evaluate and make it great!	Last lesson, learners created their own stop-frame animations. This lesson, they will evaluate their animations and try to improve them by creating a brand-new animation based on their feedback.	To review and improve an animation • I can explain ways to make my animation better • I can evaluate another learner's animation • I can improve my animation based on feedback
6 Lights, camera, action!	Last lesson, learners perfected their stop-frame animations. This lesson, they will add other media and effects into their animations, such as music and text.	To evaluate the impact of adding other media to an animation • I can add other media to my animation • I can explain why I added other media to my animation • I can evaluate my final film

Progression

This unit progresses students' knowledge and understanding of using digital devices to create media, exploring how they can create stop-frame animations. Following this unit, learners will further develop their video editing skills in Year 5.

Curriculum links

National curriculum computing links

Computing

- Select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information
- use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognise acceptable/unacceptable behaviour; identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact.

Further national curriculum links

Literacy links

- Pupils should be taught to: draft and write by: in narratives, creating settings, characters and plot
- Pupils should be taught to: proof-read for spelling and punctuation errors

History

- The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain

Education for a Connected World links

Managing online information

- I can use key phrases in search engines.
- I can use search technologies effectively.

Copyright and ownership

- I can explain why copying someone else's work from the internet without permission can cause problems.
- I can give examples of what those problems might be.
- When searching on the internet for content to use, I can explain why I need to consider who owns it and whether I have the right to reuse it.
- I can give some simple examples.
- I can give examples of content that is permitted to be reused.
- I can demonstrate the use of search tools to find and access online content which can be reused by others.

Year 3 – Desktop publishing

Unit introduction

Learners will become familiar with the terms 'text' and 'images' and understand that they can be used to communicate messages. They will use desktop publishing software and consider careful choices of font size, colour and type to edit and improve premade documents. Learners will be introduced to the terms 'templates', 'orientation', and 'placeholders' and begin to understand how these can support them in making their own template for a magazine front cover. They will start to add text and images to create their own pieces of work using desktop publishing software. Learners will look at a range of page layouts thinking carefully about the purpose of these and evaluate how and why desktop publishing is used in the real world.

Overview of lessons

Lesson	**Brief overview**	**Learning objectives**
1. Words and pictures	In this lesson, learners will become familiar with the terms 'text' and 'images' and understand that text and images need to be used carefully to communicate messages clearly. Learners will be able to give advantages and disadvantages of using text, images, or both text and images to communicate messages effectively.	To recognise how text and images convey information • I can explain the difference between text and images • I can recognise that text and images can communicate messages clearly • I can identify the advantages and disadvantages of using text and images
2. Can you edit it?	This lesson will build on last week's lesson, in which we looked at using images and text to communicate a message effectively. In this lesson we will look at desktop publishing. Learners will think about how to make careful choices regarding font size, colour, and type in an invitation. The use of the Return, Backspace, and Shift keys will be explored and learners will be taught how to type age-appropriate punctuation marks. This will build on the typing skills learned in the Year 1 'Digital	To recognise that text and layout can be edited • I can change font style, size, and colours for a given purpose • I can edit text • I can explain that text can be changed to communicate more clearly

	painting' unit. Learners will understand that once content has been added, it can be rearranged on the page.	
3. Great template!	Learners will be introduced to the terms 'templates', 'orientation', and 'placeholders' within desktop publishing software. The learners will create their own magazine template, which they will add content to during the next lesson. This lesson has been designed on a laptop using Adobe Spark and this is reflected in the screenshots and videos. Teachers may decide to use the Adobe Spark app, or other software such as Canva or Microsoft Publisher.	To choose appropriate page settings • I can explain what 'page orientation' means • I can recognise placeholders and say why they are important • I can create a template for a particular purpose
4. Can you add content?	In this lesson, learners will add their own content (text and images) to the magazine templates they created in lesson 3. They will copy the information for the front of their magazine from a prewritten document and paste it into the chosen place on their magazine cover. Images will be added from within the search facility in Adobe Spark. Teachers could ask learners to gather copyright-free images from http://www.pixabay.com if using a different application.	To add content to a desktop publishing publication • I can choose the best locations for my content • I can paste text and images to create a magazine cover • I can make changes to content after I've added it
5. Lay it out	In this lesson, learners will think about the different ways information can be laid out on a page. They will look at a range of page layouts such as letters and newspapers, and begin to think about the purpose of each of these.	To consider how different layouts can suit different purposes • I can identify different layouts • I can match a layout to a purpose

		• I can choose a suitable layout for a given purpose
6. Why desktop publishing?	In this lesson, learners will explain what desktop publishing means in their own words. They will think about how desktop publishing is used in the wider world and consider the benefits of using desktop publishing applications.	To consider the benefits of desktop publishing • I can identify the uses of desktop publishing in the real world • I can say why desktop publishing might be helpful • I can compare work made on desktop publishing to work created by hand

Progression

This unit progresses learners' knowledge and understanding of using digital devices to combine text and images building on work from the following units; Digital Writing Year 1, Digital painting Year 1, and Digital Photography Year 2.

Curriculum links

National curriculum links

Computing

- Use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and be discerning in evaluating digital content
- Select, use, and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems, and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating, and presenting data and information

English programmes of study links

- Pupils should be taught to draft and write by: in non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices [for example, headings and subheadings]
- Evaluate and edit by assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggesting improvements
- Proofread for spelling and punctuation errors

Education for a Connected World links

Managing online information

- I can use key phrases in search engines
- I can use search technologies effectively

Copyright and ownership

- When searching on the internet for content to use, I can explain why I need to consider who owns it and whether I have the right to reuse it
- I can demonstrate the use of search tools to find and access online content which can be reused by others

Year 3 – Branching databases

Unit introduction

During this unit, learners will develop their understanding of what a branching database is and how to create one. They will gain an understanding of what attributes are and how to use them to sort groups of objects by using yes/no questions. The learners will create physical and on-screen branching databases. Finally, they will evaluate the effectiveness of branching databases and will decide what types of data should be presented as a branching database.

Overview of lessons

Lesson	**Brief overview**	**Learning objectives**
1. Yes or no questions	During this lesson, learners will start to explore questions with yes or no answers, and how these can be used to identify and compare objects. They will create their own yes or no questions before using these to split a collection of objects into groups.	To create questions with yes/no answers • I can investigate questions with yes/no answers • I can make up a yes/no question about a collection of objects • I can create two groups of objects separated by one attribute
2. Making groups	During this lesson, learners will continue to develop their understanding of using questions with yes or no answers to group collections of objects. They will learn how to arrange objects in a tree structure and will continue to think about which attributes the questions are related to.	To identify the object attributes needed to collect relevant data • I can select an attribute to separate objects into groups • I can create a group of objects within an existing group • I can arrange objects into a tree structure
3. Creating a branching database	During this lesson, learners will continue to develop their understanding of ordering objects/images in a branching database structure. They will learn how to use an online database tool to arrange objects into a branching database, and will create their own questions with yes or no answers. The learners	To create a branching database • I can select objects to arrange in a branching database • I can group objects using my own yes/no questions • I can prove my branching database works

	will show that their branching database works through testing.	
4. Structuring a branching database	During this lesson, learners will continue to develop their understanding of how to create a well-structured database. They will use attributes to create questions with yes or no answers and apply these to given objects. The learners will be able to explain why questions need to be in a specific order and will compare the efficiency of different branching databases.	To explain why it is helpful for a database to be well structured • I can create yes/no questions using given attributes • I can explain that questions need to be ordered carefully to split objects into similarly sized groups • I can compare two branching database structures
5. Using a branching database	During this lesson, learners will independently create a branching database that will identify a given object. They will continue to think about the attributes of objects to write questions with a yes or no answer, which will enable them to separate a group of objects effectively. The learners will then arrange the questions and objects into a tree structure, before using their branching database to answer questions.	To identify objects using a branching database • I can select a theme and choose a variety of objects • I can create questions and apply them to a tree structure • I can use my branching database to answer questions
6. Presenting information	During this lesson, the learners will compare two ways of presenting information. They will demonstrate their ability to explain what information is shown in a pictogram and a branching database. The learners will begin to compare the two ways of presenting information.	To compare the information shown in a pictogram with a branching database • I can explain what a pictogram tells me • I can explain what a branching database tells me • I can compare two ways of presenting information

Progression

This unit progresses students' knowledge and understanding of presenting information. It builds on their knowledge of data and information from key stage 1. They continue to develop their understanding of attributes and begin to construct and interrogate branching databases as a means of displaying and retrieving information.

Curriculum links

National curriculum links

- Select, use, and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems, and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating, and presenting data and information
- Use technology safely, respectfully, and responsibly

Year 3 – Programming A - Sequencing sounds

Unit introduction

This unit explores the concept of sequencing in programming through Scratch. It begins with an introduction to the programming environment, which will be new to most learners. They will be introduced to a selection of motion, sound, and event blocks which they will use to create their own programs, featuring sequences. The final project is to make a representation of a piano. The unit is paced to focus on all aspects of sequences, and make sure that knowledge is built in a structured manner. Learners also apply stages of program design through this unit.

Overview of lessons

Lesson	Brief overview	Learning objectives
1. Introduction to Scratch	This lesson introduces learners to a new programming environment: Scratch. Learners will begin by comparing Scratch to other programming environments they may have experienced, before familiarising themselves with the basic layout of the screen.	To explore a new programming environment • I can identify the objects in a Scratch project (sprites, backdrops) • I can explain that objects in Scratch have attributes (linked to) • I can recognise that commands in Scratch are represented as blocks
2. Programming sprites	In this lesson, learners will create movement for more than one sprite. In doing this, they will design and implement their code, and then will create code to replicate a given outcome. Finally, they will experiment with new motion blocks.	To identify that commands have an outcome • I can identify that each sprite is controlled by the commands I choose • I can choose a word which describes an on-screen action for my plan • I can create a program following a design
3. Sequences	In this lesson, learners will be introduced to the concept of sequences by joining blocks of code together. They will also learn how event blocks can be used to start a project in a variety of different ways. In doing this, they will apply principles of design to plan and create a project.	To explain that a program has a start • I can start a program in different ways • I can create a sequence of connected commands • I can explain that the objects in my project will respond exactly to the code

4. Ordering commands	This lesson explores sequences, and how they are implemented in a simple program. Learners have the opportunity to experiment with sequences where order is and is not important. They will create their own sequences from given designs.	To recognise that a sequence of commands can have an order • I can explain what a sequence is • I can combine sound commands • I can order notes into a sequence
5. Looking good	This lesson develops learners' understanding of sequences by giving them the opportunity to combine motion and sounds in one sequence. They will also learn how to use costumes to change the appearance of a sprite, and backdrops to change the appearance of the stage. They will apply the skills in Activity 1 and 2 to design and create their own project, including sequences, sprites with costumes, and multiple backdrops.	To change the appearance of my project • I can build a sequence of commands • I can decide the actions for each sprite in a program • I can make design choices for my artwork
6. Making an instrument	In this lesson, learners will create a musical instrument in Scratch. They will apply the concept of design to help develop programs and use programming blocks — which they have been introduced to throughout the unit. They will learn that code can be copied from one sprite to another, and that projects should be tested to see if they perform as expected.	To create a project from a task description • I can identify and name the objects I will need for a project • I can relate a task description to a design • I can implement my algorithm as code

Progression

This unit assumes that learners will have some prior experience of programming; the KS1 NCCE units cover floor robots and ScratchJr. However, experience of other languages or environments may also be useful.

Curriculum links

National curriculum links

- Design, write, and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling or simulating physical systems; solve problems by decomposing them into smaller parts
- Use sequence, selection, and repetition in programs; work with variables and various forms of input and output
- Use logical reasoning to explain how some simple algorithms work, and to detect and correct errors in algorithms and programs
- Select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information

Year 3 – Programming B – Events and actions in programs

Unit introduction

This unit explores the links between events and actions, while consolidating prior learning relating to sequencing. Learners begin by moving a sprite in four directions (up, down, left, and right). They then explore movement within the context of a maze, using design to choose an appropriately sized sprite. This unit also introduces programming extensions, through the use of **Pen** blocks. Learners are given the opportunity to draw lines with sprites and change the size and colour of lines. The unit concludes with learners designing and coding their own maze-tracing program.

Overview of lessons

Lesson	**Brief overview**	**Learning objectives**
1 Moving a sprite	In this lesson, learners will investigate how characters can be moved using 'events'. They will analyse and improve an existing project, and then apply what they have learned to their own projects. They will then extend their learning to control multiple sprites in the same project.	To explain how a sprite moves in an existing project • I can explain the relationship between an event and an action • I can choose which keys to use for actions and explain my choices • I can identify a way to improve a program
2 Maze movement	In this lesson, learners will program a sprite to move in four directions: up, down, left, and right. They will begin by choosing a sprite and sizing it to fit in with a given background. Learners will then create the code to move the sprite in one direction before duplicating and modifying it to move in all four directions. Finally, they will consider how their project could be extended to prove that their sprite has successfully navigated a maze.	To create a program to move a sprite in four directions • I can choose a character for my project • I can choose a suitable size for a character in a maze • I can program movement
3 Drawing lines	This lesson will introduce learners to extension blocks in Scratch using the **Pen** extension. Learners will use the pen down block to draw	To adapt a program to a new context • I can use a programming extension

	lines, building on the movement they created for their sprite in Lesson 2. Learners will then decide how to set up their project every time it is run.	• I can consider the real world when making design choices • I can choose blocks to set up my program
4 Adding features	In this lesson, learners will be given the opportunity to use additional **Pen** blocks. They will predict the functions of new blocks and experiment with them, before designing features to add to their own projects. Finally, they will add these features to their projects and test their effectiveness.	To develop my program by adding features • I can identify additional features (from a given set of blocks) • I can choose suitable keys to turn on additional features • I can build more sequences of commands to make my design work
5 Debugging movement	This lesson explores the process of debugging, specifically looking at how to identify and fix errors in a program. Learners will review an existing project against a given design and identify bugs within it. They will then correct the errors, gaining independence as they do so. Learners will also develop their projects by considering which new setup blocks to use.	To identify and fix bugs in a program • I can test a program against a given design • I can match a piece of code to an outcome • I can modify a program using a design
6 Making a project	In this lesson, learners will design and create their own projects. Using a template (which can be blank or partially completed), learners will complete projects to move a sprite around a maze, with the option to leave a pen trail showing where the sprite has moved. Ideally, projects will include setup blocks to position the sprite at the start of the maze and clear	To design and create a maze-based challenge • I can make design choices and justify them • I can implement my design • I can evaluate my project

	any lines already on the screen.	

Progression

This unit assumes that learners will have some prior experience of programming. The key stage 1 National Centre for Computing Education units focus on floor robots and ScratchJr, however experience of other languages or environments may also be useful. The Year 3 — Programming A unit introduces the Scratch programming environment and the concept of sequences.

Curriculum links

National curriculum links

- Design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, including controlling or simulating physical systems; solve problems by decomposing them into smaller parts
- Use sequence, selection, and repetition in programs; work with variables and various forms of input and output
- Use logical reasoning to explain how some simple algorithms work and to detect and correct errors in algorithms and programs
- Select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information