

"Help! My child is starting to code..." A parent's guide to the new computing curriculum

With the new computing curriculum in place, the tech skills that your son or daughter learns now will benefit them greatly in the future and may even influence their choice of career. This nifty guide and the links we recommend will help you to support them with computing, coding, digital safety and other elements of the curriculum.



What is your child learning about digital technology at school?

The new computing curriculum replaces ICT and teaches computing as a discipline, just like physics or history. It's out with learning how to work a spreadsheet and in with things like learning how to code!

The curriculum has three parts: digital literacy, information technology and computer science. In Key Stage 1, lessons include understanding basic algorithms while Key Stage 2 students get to design and debug programs, for example. By Key Stage 3, young people have progressed to using two or more programming languages. Digital safety is taught at all ages.

You can find full details of the curriculum on the Department for Education website at www.gov.uk



How can you help?

For the first time, children are studying a subject at school that their parents didn't. But don't let that put you off getting involved! Here are our top tips for supporting your child with their use of technology:

1

Don't dismiss it as less important than "proper subjects". Although not all future jobs will require advanced developer skills, they will expect confident use of technology. Understanding computing will be as fundamental to your child's employability as maths and English.

2

Encourage hobbies like code clubs, film-making and blogging. These can be valuable and fun ways for children to explore different uses for computers and discover new technologies.

3

Take the My Tech Family quiz with your child to discover their digital learning style, then have a go at something on the Fun Things to Try list. You'll find them both on the Vodafone Digital Parenting website at www.vodafone.com/parents/mytechfamily



Where will this lead?

If it feels like your child spends more than enough time using technology and the last thing you want to do is encourage more, it's worth thinking about the long term. Remember that this generation is being prepared for jobs that possibly don't even exist yet.

Whilst some young people will go on to use specialist coding skills, many will find they need computing know-how for any job, from fashion to journalism, finance to health. Who knows what jobs the generation of 2028 school leavers will be going for?

Read more about the careers of the future on the Vodafone Digital Parenting website at

www.vodafone.com/parents/careers_in_coding



Feeling left behind?

If all this talk of computing and coding is leaving you feeling a little left out, don't panic! Try the following so you can brush up on your own computer knowledge:



1
2
3

Check out the digitalskills.com website at www.digitalskills.com or search for a tutorial on YouTube at www.youtube.com

Have a go at our Fun Things To Try list at www.vodafone.com/parents/fun_things_to_try

Make the most of the free coding resources available online, like Codecademy at www.codecademy.com

If you'd like to learn more about coding and the new computing curriculum, Vodafone and The Parent Zone have published a series of articles on this topic on the Vodafone Digital Parenting website at www.vodafone.com/parents/decoding_code

