Areas of Computing – Programming

Progression of knowledge from Reception to Year 6

Year Group	Programming – Knowledge Progression
Rec	To know that being able to follow and give simple instructions is important in computing. To understand that it is important for instructions to be in the right order. To understand why a set of instructions may have gone wrong. To know that you can program a Bee-Bot with some simple commands. To understand that debugging means how to fix some simple programming errors. To understand that an algorithm is a set of clear and precise instructions.
Year 1	To understand that an algorithm is when instructions are put in an exact order. To know that input devices get information into a computer and that output devices get information out of a computer. To understand that decomposition means breaking a problem into manageable chunks and that it is important in computing. To know that we call errors in an algorithm 'bugs' and fixing these 'debugging'. To understand the basic functions of a Bee-Bot. To know that you can use a camera/tablet to make simple videos. To know that algorithms move a bee-bot accurately to a chosen destination.
Year 2	To understand what machine learning is and how that enables computers to make predictions. To know that loops in programming are where you set a certain instruction (or instructions) to be repeated multiple times. To know that abstraction is the removing of unnecessary detail to help solve a problem. To know that coding is writing in a special language so that the computer understands what to do. To understand that the character in ScratchJr is controlled by the programming blocks. To know that you can write a program to create a musical instrument or tell a joke.
Year 3	To know that Scratch is a programming language and some of its basic functions. To understand how to use loops to improve programming. To understand how decomposition is used in programming. To understand that you can remix and adapt existing code.
Year 4	To understand that a variable is a value that can change (depending on conditions) and know that you can create them in Scratch. To know what a conditional statement is in programming. To understand that variables can help you to create a quiz on Scratch. To know that combining computational thinking skills (sequence, abstraction, decomposition etc) can help you to solve a problem. To understand that pattern recognition means identifying patterns to help them work out how the code works. To understand that algorithms can be used for a number of purposes e.g. animation, games design etc.
Year 5	To know that a soundtrack is music for a film/video and that one way of composing these is on programming software. To understand that using loops can make the process of writing music simpler and more effective. To know how to adapt their code while performing their music. To know that a Micro:bit is a programmable device. To know that Micro:bit uses a block coding language similar to Scratch. To understand and recognise coding structures including variables. To know what techniques to use to create a program for a specific purpose (including decomposition).
Year 6	To know that there are text-based programming languages such as Logo and Python. To know that nested loops are loops inside of loops. To understand the use of random numbers and remix Python code.