

SCHOOL TOOLKIT FOR NATIONAL CODING WEEK



This toolkit contains ideas for events you can run during National Coding Week at your school, college or university.

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THE AIM OF NATIONAL CODING WEEK



The aim of National Coding Week is to help build people's confidence and digital skills at fun and engaging events.

Schools, colleges and universities can play a great part in National Coding Week by running events for students, staff, parents or the community. National Coding Week can also be a good opportunity to showcase to the world the curriculum and projects being taught.

If like many establishments you have been involved with National Coding Week in the past, it will be easy for you to assess what you can do during the week. If this year is your first time - welcome aboard! Start with something simple and manageable.



HOW TO MAKE SURE THE EVENT IS A SUCCESS



To make sure your event is successful, decide on your specific aims. For example:

- Are you focussing on a single year / age group?
- Do you want to showcase to the world the great work you are doing?
- Can you focus on getting the students to teach a new skill to each other?
- Can you use the week to train non-specialist teachers?
- What about parents / families/ governors - could you aim to include them?
- National Coding Week could be a great opportunity to get a local business in to talk about careers in tech or to help shape your curriculum.
- With increasing awareness of cyber crime would your students be interested in a career in cyber security? See NCSC [CyberFirst](#) scheme.

Assess your capacity.

Then, figure out exactly how much time and what skills you have to devote to running your event.

Ask yourself:

- How long will your event be?
- How much time do you have to organise and promote your event? Will it be enough?
- What capacity do you have to run more than one event?
- What skills do you need to host this event? (eg coding, presenting, coaching).
- Can you get your students to show their ingenuity and get them to help plan and promote the event?

What if my own skills are limited?

Don't worry – if you want to get parents, governors or non-specialist teachers engaged there are many online tutorials available that have been designed for new learners. You can facilitate these during a workshop, rather than trying to teach the skills yourself.

Here's a list of **free** online tutorials suitable for absolute beginners:

- [freeCodeCamp](#)
- [Codecademy](#)
- [Khan Academy](#) (especially [Hour of Code](#))
- [Codewars](#)
- [GA Dash](#)

Consider a collaboration.

In our experience, there are many fantastic companies out there who want to be involved in National Coding Week. They are held back from doing so because they don't have a suitable venue where they could host an event, so this is where you can step in.

Provide a platform where companies can teach others and share their skills. Collaborating with local experts can help you achieve more than you could on your own.

Types of companies that respond well:

- Web agencies
- Design agencies
- IT / Tech consultants
- Freelancers
- Codeclubs

Audience.

You need to work out exactly what people are interested in within your community and what they are capable of learning or achieving within the timeframe of your event.

Ask yourself:

- What topics are they interested in?
- What has worked well for you in the past?
- What is their technological skill level?
- What prior knowledge do they need to have?

STILL STUCK FOR EVENT IDEAS?



This year we are encouraging students of any age group to get involved in two particular ways.

Stay Safe Online

Involves planning a stay safe online lesson and delivering it to their peers. Research a stay safe online topic, examples are listed below but you could choose any topic that is important to you:

Data Protection * Cyber Security * Social Media Management * Privacy settings * Passwords management * Knowing who you are communicating with (stranger danger).

Share Your Skills

Involves planning a digital skills lesson and delivering it to their peers. Create a simple lesson plan of what you will be teaching your class.

The 'lesson' can be any time from 15 minutes to 60 minutes and it can be taught by a single person or a group of 5 maximum. Each individual needs to have a clear role.

PROMOTING YOUR EVENT

Promote your event to your audience. It's really important to promote your National Coding Week event. The channels you use will depend on your audience. When promoting your event:

- Make your event descriptions as specific as possible.
- Promote your event at least a month in advance, and keep reminding people about it in the run-up.
- Include specific beginning and end times, dates and locations, so attendees can plan ahead.
- Be thoughtful and inclusive about the language you use, and try to attract a wide audience.

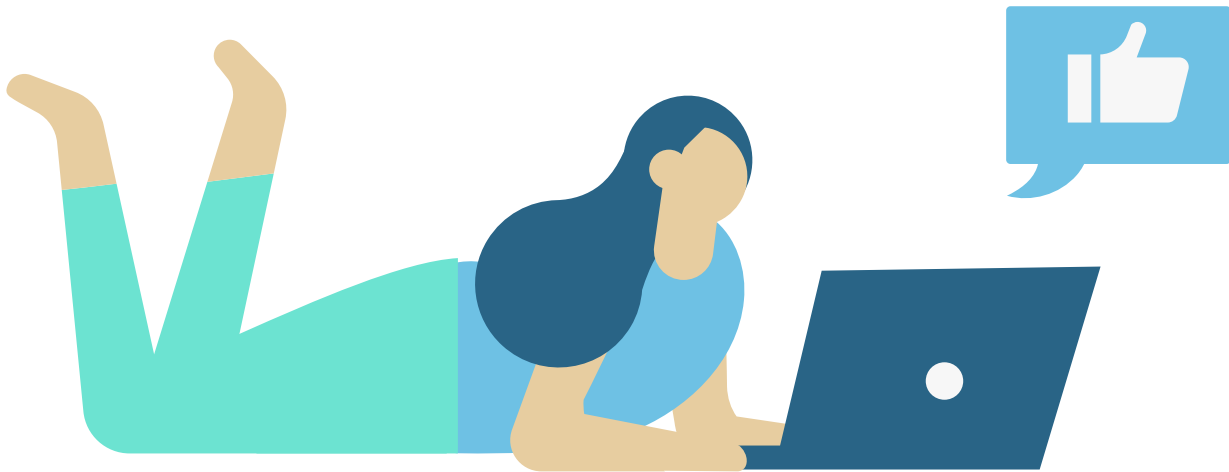


WRAPPING UP YOUR EVENT

Here are a few more tips to help make sure your National Coding Week event is a runaway success.

- Inform your attendees about what tools and resources they will need to have ahead of time.
- Live tweet your event on social media so we can all follow along.
- Provide attendees with resources for further learning once the event has finished.
- Ask for feedback at the end of your event to see what you could do better next time.
- Send a follow-up email so attendees know their presence was appreciated.





TOP TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL EVENT

Tips

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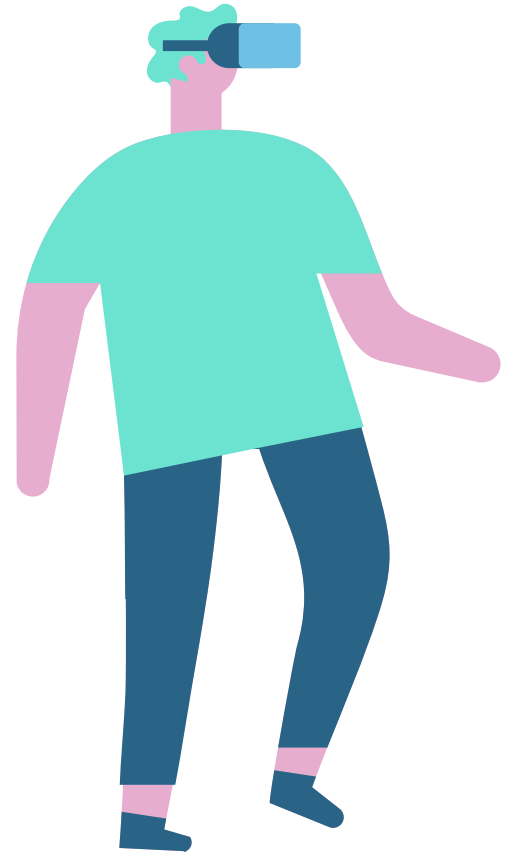
- Keep your event simple and within your own confidence levels.
- Draw on friendly support from within your community to help.
- Include time for Q&A and evaluation.
- Make sure the events are fun and engaging - the aim is to build confidence so you don't need to go into great depth for each topic.

Share your event

There are many ways you can share your events with us, but here are a few to ensure we notice you.

- Use the hashtag **#nationalcodingweek**
- Tag us in your social media posts.
- Prefix your event title with National Coding Week.
- Send us an email at **hello@codingweek.org**
We love to hear about your events!

STORIES OF SUCCESSFUL PAST EVENTS



Case studies - Here are some stories of successful past events to inspire you

Leeds City College

Ran free coding sessions. They aimed to equip attendees with a basic knowledge of how coding works so that they could better understand the process of programming.

The sessions were for members of the public and required no previous knowledge of coding. The workshops were delivered by the team of experienced Software Development lecturers at the Leeds City College.

Leeds University

The Enterprise Society at the University of Leeds organised a series of digital skills based events for National Coding Week.

St Mary's Catholic School, Bishop's Stortford

The normal ICT curriculum was altered for National Coding Week. KS3 classes engaged in a number of events including:

- An hour of code
- Watching and discussing video clips of some of the most influential and successful men and women in the IT industry
- Careers in coding/computer science
- A range of computational thinking challenges

Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Ashbourne Derbyshire

A "rising star" student ran sessions for teachers and fellow students and even involved them in a drone challenge!

St Luke's Primary School, Jersey

Ran events and competitions leading up to the week with the winning classes having a trip to their local digital hub for a taught coding session led by industry professionals.

Barking and Dagenham College

Organised coding sessions throughout the week. Sessions were aimed at young adults who had little or no coding experience. Over 270 students took part. The students were enrolled at the college and were studying subjects as diverse as forestry and sports studies. The college also encouraged and supported students who had learning disabilities or who were disabled.

Mereside Primary School, Blackpool

During the week the school held coding sessions every evening for parents and teachers. These sessions were advertised and available to teachers in other schools, therefore ensuring that skills and confidence were being developed in the community. This is a clear example of a small school having a big impact.

Digital Making Day, Glasgow

80 young people comprising of Glasgow schools, community groups and Modern Apprentices took part in a selection of digital making workshops including:

- Hacking Snakes and Ladders with the BBC micro:bit
- Making music with Code in Sonic Pi
- Lego Mindstorms Robots
- Creating their own Games Controllers with MaKey Makeys

St Magdalen's

Offered an event each day of National Coding Week looking at a different aspect of coding/programming. Students and parents joined in. Sessions included:

- Creating games in Scratch
- Physical Computing with the micro:bit
- Minecraft fun with EduBlocks
- Make your own song with Sonic Pi

Bringing in a Trainer

You don't have to do everything yourself - an organisation called "[AmazingICT](#)" worked with 7 schools in the Telford area supporting teachers in delivering ICT including coding.

This year they will be introducing staff to Scratch3 (Beta) version and tweeting what they discover.



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NATIONAL CODING WEEK!**



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