

BCS: Northern Ireland Computing Education Committee Terms of Reference

Responsible Body	Academy of Computing Board
Version Number	1
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Date Approved	12 July 2021
Date Issued	3 August 2021

Summary Of Revisions Made	Version	Date
Initial version	V1	12 July 2021

Remit

The main purpose of the Committee is to facilitate communication between interested parties in computing education in Northern Ireland. This will include primary and secondary level school teachers, award and regulatory bodies, higher and further education staff, industry, government departments and learned societies.

The Committee will:

1. Regularly review the current landscape of computing education in Northern Ireland to monitor the extent to which:
 - a. the curriculum and qualifications are fit for purpose given both the fast-moving pace of computing contexts and the fundamental principles of the discipline,
 - b. there are suitable learning and teaching resources for each area of the curriculum for each stage of learner,
 - c. educators are confident in their pedagogical and content knowledge,
 - d. learners are satisfied with what and how they learn about computing, and
 - e. there is adequate support for computing education across the country so that everyone has access to high quality computing learning.
2. Plan coherent programmes of work to address any current or projected shortcomings identified during the review process.
3. Support educators to develop their pedagogic and content knowledge through high quality professional learning.
4. Foster productive collaboration between computing educators in schools, colleges and universities, and with industry colleagues.
5. Ensure that computing education is informed by research evidence.

6. Advise policy makers and national bodies on matters relating to computing education, acting as a single point of contact for advice across the sector and co-ordinating as a single body with external stakeholders.
7. Advocate for excellence in computing education in Northern Ireland and raise the profile of computing within the country.
8. Share learning with similar organisations in the rest of the UK, and other countries across the world.

Organisation

1. The Committee will be composed of members nominated from a wide range of stakeholder groups. A non-exclusive, indicative list follows. Representatives from national bodies and elsewhere will be invited to observe or advise, as appropriate. From time to time, the committee may engage with national bodies on joint projects.
2. The Committee will follow the organisation, rules and procedures common to other BCS Academy of Computing Committees.
3. The Committee will liaise closely with the BCS Academy of Computing Schools Curriculum and Assessment Committee.

Indicative Stakeholder Groups

- Teachers: primary teachers, secondary computing specialists and special educational needs co-ordinators, as well as representation from special schools and nurseries as appropriate.
- National bodies: CCEA, CAS Northern Ireland, Sentinus, Education Authority, Department of Education.
- Higher and Further Education: representatives from the Further Education sector (IT Hub) and Higher Education including the Open University.
- Industry: representatives as appropriate from the Northern Ireland software sector, public sector computing and software startups. Department for the Economy. CBI NI.
- Learned and professional societies: IET.
- Learners: we will seek input as appropriate from students at all levels to inform the work of the Committee.

Approval and Review

These Terms of Reference shall be approved by the BCS Academy of Computing Board. The Northern Ireland Computing Education Committee will review them on an annual basis, normally at the first meeting of the academic year.