



# Ensuring quality: the role of the BCS CAS Quality Review Panel

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1. The teaching of computing is relatively young compared with other subjects and many teaching strategies are still developmental. The Royal Society “Shut down or restart?” report made it clear that resources should be available in all schools to support the teaching of computing. (Recommendation 5, see Chapter 7). It also reasserts the value of suitable resources for teachers and pupils; a value that, it states, “cannot be underestimated. However, there is a complex landscape of resources available” which is rich in “home grown” materials.
- 1.2. BCS commissions and directly produces a variety of materials to support the work of CAS members and other projects. These materials aim to support teachers’ professional learning, stimulate their thinking and professional knowledge and ensure that their practice is critically informed and current. They aim to support the CAS vision and mission of ‘ensuring that every child has a world-class computing education’. One of the panel’s first tasks will be to develop and agree review criteria based on these aims.
- 1.3. These materials include, but are not limited to:
  - curriculum, teaching and learning, and assessment advice
  - resources that support curriculum planning
  - resources for use in teaching, learning and assessment
  - advice on delivering CPD and training and CPD resources.
- 1.4. The BCS CAS Quality Review Panel provides the BCS CAS team with timely advice to ensure that all materials produced by BCS/CAS are:
  - High quality – with the appropriate standard of academic rigour, well presented and focused on pupil outcomes
  - Evidence based- drawing on research on effective teaching, learning, assessment and management of the computing curriculum
  - Inclusive – actively promoting a computing curriculum that embraces diversity and is available to all
  - Coherent and relevant – supporting a consistent approach to computing
  - Manageable – supporting teachers and schools without placing them under an undue burden.

## 2. Principles

- 2.1. In carrying out its work, the review panel will be:
  - Independent – it is conducted by people who are unconnected with the materials under review
  - Expert - the advice is delivered by panel members who know how to criticise constructively and whose standing and expertise is widely acknowledged.

- Multidisciplinary – the advice includes the different perspectives of academics, teachers and assessors
- Accountable – the panel and its advice must be clearly seen to work for the benefit of CAS members
- Transparent – the panel’s remit, membership, governance processes and funding should always be in the public domain.
- Objective – it appraises materials according to objective criteria building on the points set out in 1.2 above
- Accessible – its advice is clearly expressed and implementable.

### 3. The Panel Membership

- 3.1. Members of the panel will be appointed based on their personal expertise and experience, their commitment to advance computing, and their commitment to the CAS mission and ethos. While they may have been nominated by an organisation they are not representative of the interests of that organisation.
- 3.2. The panel will normally be made up of approximately 16 unpaid members whose term will be 2, 3 or 4 years, which may be extended subject to the agreement of the chair of the panel for a further term of three years. The panel will seek to reflect the diversity in the wider population, seeking representation across BAME, disability, gender, LGBT and socio-economic groups.
- 3.3. The panel will be chaired by an experienced academic with expertise in teaching computing, teacher education and supporting computing teachers and developing resources to support the computing curriculum. It will also contain:
  - at least two experienced primary computing teachers
  - at least two experienced secondary computing teachers
  - a Computer Science academic with experience supporting school age education
  - a teacher/teacher educator with experience of and expertise in designing a culturally responsive curriculum
  - a teacher/teacher educator with experience in inclusion
- 3.4. The panel as a whole should include members from all 4 UK countries.
- 3.5. Members of the panel must adhere to the BCS Code of Conduct.

### 4. Accountability

- 4.1. The panel will report to the BCS Academy Board annually on its work, summarising the materials reviewed, any advice given and any issues that have emerged through its reviews.
- 4.2. In addition, at the discretion of the chair, the panel may raise issues related to its work with the BCS SCAC and the CAS Board.

### 5. Meetings

- 5.1. Three meetings will be held each year. In addition, panel members may be consulted through ad hoc online meetings and discussions. All reasonable expenses incurred by members of the panel will be paid by BCS in line with BCS policy on expenses.

5.2. Meetings will be serviced by BCS staff, who will prepare and circulate papers and minutes and maintain records of the panel's work. Confidential material will be clearly marked and panel members will be required to agree to rules of confidentiality upon joining the panel.

## 6. Ways of working

6.1. All materials will be treated as COMMERCIALY SENSITIVE by panel members, who will withdraw from a review should a conflict of interest emerge.

6.2. All materials produced by BCS to support the work of CAS will be reviewed by this panel after first having been reviewed by three-five practitioners. Materials submitted to the panel for its advice will be accompanied by a summary of the feedback from those practitioners.

6.3. Materials and the practitioner feedback will then be reviewed by the panel, and its advice summarised by the BCS staff servicing the panel's work. The panel may recommend that:

- the materials proceed to publication
- the materials proceed to publication taking account of the panel's recommendations for any changes
- the materials are revised in line with the panel's advice and return to the panel for a further scrutiny.

## 7. Review, Amendment, Modification or Variation

7.1. The panel will review its ways of working annually and this Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation with the panel.

7.2. The Terms of Reference are only valid once ratified by the BCS Academy of Computing Board, or by the BCS Board of Trustees.