STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Technology at St. Joseph’s Payneham

St Joseph’s Payneham has embraced the new Australian Digital Technologies curriculum where students are being taught computer literacy from an early age.

Coding and Computer Science from Reception to 7 has always been a focus at the school.
Coding is a key component of Computational Thinking, which is part of the new subject of Digital Technologies. This ‘language’ is increasingly seen as a vital skill for young people to learn. Coding assists students to understand the digital world, and to actively shape that world.
It’s a skill that encourages our students to become creators, not just consumers, of the technology they use. It helps them to organise their ideas, express themselves clearly and share it with the world. It develops the children’s problem solving abilities.
Our Reception to Year 2 students use a Bee Bot, a plastic bumblebee-like robot that has a selection of buttons on its back, allowing up to 40 commands to be used.
Students enter codes to move the Bee Bot around hand-drawn roads and building blocks.

Year 3, 4 and 5 students progress to the Spheros, a plastic ball that can be programmed, then in later years our Year 6 and 7s move to working with Robotics.
“All the students love it, they can’t wait to do coding – they think they’re coming to play and don’t realise they’re learning at the same time.”
Teaching children to code is about opening up young minds to the creative aspects of programming.
The skills learnt in coding can be applied in lots of fields as computers will continue to focus in the future.

Ingrid Douventzidis
Deputy Principal