

National Coding Week



1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-ks1-ks2-national-coding-week-computing-science/zghw4xs>

Play your chosen music and display the image of computer code:

http://teach.files.bbci.co.uk/schoolradio/assemblies/images/computer_code.jpg

2. Introduction

Display the image of computer code and ask: **Does anyone know what this is?** Confirm that it's a piece of computer code. Tell the assembly: **We're going to find out more about coding today - what it is, how we can do it and how coding can help us with our lives.**

3. Play the video

Play the video. The duration is 5' 15" and the final words are: 'And getting rid of the bugs is all part of the fun.'

4 & 5. Time to talk

You could ask a group of children to replicate the car's journey seen in the video - as per the instructions on the web page.

Then ask: **What kinds of thing can we do with coding? Why is it important?** (Gather responses).

You could suggest that, back in the classroom, pupils browse the BBC videos and resources in the 'Related links' section below, to find out more about the possibilities of coding.

Ask: **What does "debugging" mean? What do we do when we debug computer code?** Establish that debugging is tracking down and fixing mistakes in the code. You could develop the point with: **So does this mean mistakes are a bad thing?** and guide pupils to an understanding that, in coding as in life, mistakes can be a positive thing. They are opportunities for us to learn how to get things right.

Ask: **What personal qualities do you need to be a good coder? What makes someone good at coding?** Pupils might suggest that patience and persistence, attention to detail, the ability to work well with other people and a willingness to learn from our mistakes all go to make someone good at coding.

6. Time to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.

Play video



7. Opportunity to reflect

Coding is about communication, saying clearly what we want...

But it's also about listening to others, being patient, working hard and learning from our mistakes...

If we can do all that, we'll be good coders. But more importantly, we'll be good people too...

Think to yourself: are you good at all of those things..? Could you find ways to improve..?

8. Opportunity for prayer

Use your standard form of address ('Dear God', etc) and:

'We thank you for our inventive minds that can make wonderful things such as robots.

Help us to learn how to communicate and say clearly what we want.

Help us to listen to others, to be patient, to work hard and to learn from our mistakes.

That way, we'll be good coders. But more importantly, we'll be good people too.

Amen.'