I Belong Champions – our mission

Together, we will give more girls a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study, and better prepare them for higher education and future careers, through achieving success in GCSE Computer Science.

I Belong Champions are vital to this effort and will:

🌟 help schools, including their own, to create a sense of belonging for girls and underrepresented groups into computing

🌟 take a lead role in helping their own school progress towards the NCCE Computing Quality Mark, with a focus on improving Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and SEND self-assessments

🌟 embed inclusive practices through staff support and training, signposting quality-assured information and guidance

🌟 encourage teachers to benefit from evidence-based teaching and learning approaches, and inclusive enrichment and outreach activities, provided by the NCCE

🌟 share effective practice and examples of success with other educators – through forums and teacher networks
I Belong Champions are:

- teachers, school leaders and others working in schools and colleges, with a passion for equity in computer science
- willing to develop their own understanding about the gender imbalance in computer science, and to take action to remove barriers to girls’ participation, through completing the ‘I Belong’ programme

I Belong Champions will gain:

- valuable knowledge and experience supporting interests or responsibilities within education relating to inclusion, progress and attainment
- membership of a peer-support network of like-minded Champions, aided by specialists in equity within computer science across England, through the online STEM Community
- exclusive access to online and in-person events from the National Centre for Computing Education
- opportunity to share and celebrate success through high-quality case studies and other communications including social media
- a digital badge recognising their role as Champions

Where do I start?

The aims of I Belong are ambitious. On the following page are some of the practical steps you – and those you guide and support – can take to progress towards equity for girls in computer science GCSE:
Encouraging girls into computer science
This short, free, live-online course is the foundation of the I Belong programme. You will develop a deeper understanding of the gender imbalance in computer science, helping you to assess the state of your own school against national trends. You’ll find out about a wide range of evidence-based, effective approaches to engaging girls in Key Stage 3, building their appetite for continued study. The huge benefits to the school, to young people and society will be discussed, helping you to become an advocate for the subject. By participating in this course, you’ll earn your I Belong Champion digital badge.

I Belong handbook
This compact guide contains all you need to know to implement the approaches that fit any school context. From pedagogy guidance, teaching materials and CPD, through to enrichment activities and industry outreach, you’ll gain access to a suite of evidence-informed approaches proven to be effective. Action-planning tools will help you to fit the needs and aims of any school and create sustained change.

Teach Computing Curriculum
Download, use and share curriculum resources that have been hand-picked for their positive effect on girls’ engagement. The content, pedagogy and activities within each of these units is built on evidence of what works best for inspiring girls, as part of a fuller curriculum plan. Applying gender-sensitive teaching approaches, developed through the ‘Encouraging girls into computer science’ course, will increase the impact of these curated lesson resources.

Enrich and extend the curriculum
We’ve assembled a partnership of organisations with a passion for improving the experience of girls in computer science. Whether you bring an industry specialist into your classroom for a masterclass; run after-school STEM Club sessions with a focus on computing; or challenge your students to compete or collaborate in a selected high-quality enrichment activity, girls can experience the breadth of computer science and develop a sense of belonging.

Bring others along
I Belong Champions are vital to spreading the word and getting teachers and other schools involved. By sharing through networks such as school trusts, local computing communities, social media, the STEM Community and of course, your teaching colleagues, you can help other teachers to access the I Belong programme, improving outcomes and opportunities for girls in their own classes. Be confident in advocating for this important mission because we need to see urgent and positive change.

To become an I Belong Champion, and join our mission, sign up here.