

FOR SCHOOL OWNERS AND PRINCIPALS · CLASSES 3 TO 8

CBSE AI readiness checklist 2026-27

What CBSE's new Computational Thinking and AI curriculum asks of your school, a checklist to see where you stand, and a plan for the rest of the session.

1 What CBSE has asked for

CBSE Circular Acad-15/2026, dated 1 April 2026, introduces a Computational Thinking (CT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) curriculum for Classes 3 to 8 from the 2026-27 session. CBSE calls it the prescribed curriculum and advises all schools to "take necessary steps for effective implementation".

AT A GLANCE	Classes 3 to 5 Preparatory stage	Classes 6 to 8 Middle stage
WHAT	CT only. No AI yet.	Advanced CT, introductory AI and interdisciplinary projects.
WHERE	Inside existing Maths and The World Around Us (TWAU) periods. No new subject or period.	CT through Maths, Science and Social Science. AI and projects need their own time.
HOURS A YEAR	About 50 (indicative).	About 100 (indicative): 40 CT, 20 AI and 40 for two projects.
WHO TEACHES	Maths and other subject teachers, using CBSE's handbook for each grade.	Subject teachers for CT. The computer teacher leads AI and the projects, and assesses the projects.
ASSESSMENT	CT questions and puzzles in Maths and TWAU tests, group activities, a Teacher Observation Journal.	Tests, group and practical work, an observation journal, projects and reflections. Projects end in a presentation.
TEACHER TRAINING	CBSE's training theme for 2026-27 is "Computational Thinking and Understanding AI" (Notification TRG-02, 9 April 2026). Schools are encouraged to use District Level Deliberations (one day, 6 CPD hours), expert-led talks (half day, 3 CPD hours) and CBSE regional workshops (one day, 6 CPD hours, ₹700 registration).	

What it does not ask for

- **An AI lab or paid platform.** It is not tied to any software and recommends free and open-source tools.
- **Screens for everything.** Much CT work is unplugged, and computer access is not expected for assessment.
- **A board exam.** Assessment is continuous, formative and run by the school.
- **Fixed hours.** CBSE calls the hours indicative; schools can adjust them.

Also changing, for Class 9: CBSE's other AI courses are discontinued for Class 9 from 2026-27; Class 10 stays on the 2025-26 scheme this year. NCERT is to provide CT and AI modules for Classes 9 to 12 (Acad-18/2026).

2 Your readiness checklist

Tick what is in place. **CBSE** items restate a CBSE document; the rest are our recommended practice.

A Curriculum and timetable

- ☐ The framework and handbooks for Classes 3 to 8 are downloaded and with every teacher. **CBSE**
- ☐ Classes 3 to 5: CT questions run chapter by chapter in Maths and TWAU, not as a block. **CBSE**
- ☐ Classes 6 to 8: about 40 CT, 20 AI and 40 project hours are mapped on the timetable.
- ☐ Two interdisciplinary projects are chosen for each of Classes 6, 7 and 8. **CBSE**
- ☐ One person leads CT and AI for Classes 3 to 8 and checks coverage each term.

B Teachers and training

- ☐ Subject teachers know which handbook questions belong to each of their chapters. **CBSE**
- ☐ The computer teacher leads AI and projects in Classes 6 to 8, and assesses the projects. **CBSE**
- ☐ Teachers guide with prompts and discussion, and value thinking over the right answer. **CBSE**
- ☐ Teachers have seen CBSE's webinar (28 April 2026) and are booked into its CT and AI training, with CPD hours recorded. **CBSE**

C Devices and tools

- ☐ Most CT work is planned unplugged: paper, puzzles and discussion. **CBSE**
- ☐ Classes 6 to 8 have device time booked for AI activities, data work and projects.
- ☐ Tools are free or open-source where possible. No single platform is required. **CBSE**
- ☐ Rules for safe, private use of any AI tool are written down and shared with staff.

D Assessment

- ☐ Classes 3 to 5: CT questions and puzzles are in Maths and TWAU tests and activities. **CBSE**
- ☐ Every class from 3 to 8 keeps a Teacher Observation Journal. **CBSE**
- ☐ Classes 6 to 8: clear, consistent rubrics exist for projects, presentations and journals. **CBSE**
- ☐ The report card shows families how CT and AI progress is reported.

E Parent communication

- ☐ Parents have a short note: puzzle and reasoning work from Class 3, mostly without screens, and AI basics from Class 6.
- ☐ Parents know that privacy, bias and safe online behaviour are part of the syllabus.
- ☐ Parents are invited to the Classes 6 to 8 project presentations.

3 Term-by-term plan for the rest of 2026–27

The session began in April 2026, so Term 1 is a check of work already done. Shift the months to match your own calendar.

TERM 1

**April to
September 2026**
CONFIRM THESE ARE
DONE

- Every Class 3 to 8 teacher has the handbook for their grade.
- A CT and AI lead is named, and teachers have agreed who teaches what.
- Teachers have gone through CBSE's webinar material or a District Level Deliberation.

TERM 2

**October 2026 to
March 2027**
DO NOW

- Check that CT questions are used chapter by chapter, not as a separate block.
- Schedule the remaining Class 6 to 8 AI hours and both projects, and book device time.
- Start Teacher Observation Journals and project rubrics.
- Book expert-led talks (3 CPD hours) and regional workshops (6 CPD hours). CBSE's National Teachers' Conference on CT and AI is on 20 and 21 November 2026 in Pune; registration closed on 10 September.
- Brief parents before the second-term assessments and invite them to project presentations.

BEFORE APRIL 2027
Set up year two
PLAN 2027–28

- Re-plan the 2027–28 timetable using the hours you actually taught, and close each teacher's CPD record.
- Check CBSE's CT and AI page for new material. In April, CBSE said an AI project list with rubrics would follow; it was not on the page on 27 October 2026.

Sources

1. **CBSE Circular Acad-15/2026, 1 April 2026:** launch of the CT and AI curriculum framework, Classes III–VIII. cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Circulars/2026/15_Circular_2026.pdf
2. **CBSE, CT and AI Classes 3–8 Curriculum, 2026–27** (linked from Acad-15/2026). cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/CurriculumMain27/CTAI_Pri_2026-27.pdf
3. **CBSE Circular Acad-18/2026, 9 April 2026:** student and teacher resource books. cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/Circulars/2026/18_Circular_2026.pdf
4. **CBSE Circular Acad-23/2026, 27 April 2026,** webinar of 28 April 2026 and its slides. cbseacademic.nic.in/ct-ai.html
5. **CBSE Training Notification TRG-02, 9 April 2026,** with District Level Deliberation guidelines. cbse.gov.in/cbsenew/documents/Notification_CT_AI_2026_27_09042026.pdf
6. **CBSE Circulars TRG-07/2026, 5 May 2026, and TRG-18/2026, 1 September 2026:** National Teachers' Conference 2026. cbse.gov.in/cbsenew/documents/07_Circular_Acad_05052026.pdf
7. **PIB, Ministry of Education, 1 April 2026:** launch of CBSE's CT and AI curriculum for Classes III–VIII. pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2247963

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