



## **Design Technology**

### **Intent**

Design and technology helps to prepare children for the rapidly changing technological society in which we live. The subject encourages children to become creative problem solvers, both as individuals and as part of a team. Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values, drawing on their mathematic, scientific, computing and artistic knowledge. Through the study of design and technology they combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetic, social and environmental issues.

The National Curriculum for design and technology aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world;
- build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users;
- to encourage children to select appropriate tools and techniques for making a product, whilst following safe procedures;
- to foster enjoyment, satisfaction and purpose when designing and making;
- critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others;
- understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.

### **Key stage 1**

Through a variety of creative and practical activities, pupils should be taught the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to engage in an iterative process of designing and making. They should work in a range of relevant contexts [for example, the home and school, gardens and playgrounds, the local community, industry and the wider environment].

When designing and making, pupils should be taught to:

### **Design**

- design purposeful, functional, appealing products for themselves and other users based on design criteria;
- generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through talking, drawing, templates, mock-ups and, where appropriate, information and communication technology.

### **Make:**

- select from and use a range of tools and equipment to perform practical tasks [for example, cutting, shaping, joining and finishing];
- select from and use a wide range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their characteristics.

### **Evaluate**

- critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others.

### **Technical knowledge**

- build structures, exploring how they can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable;
- explore and use mechanisms [for example, levers, sliders, wheels and axles] in their products.

## **Key stage 2**

Design and technology will engage the children in a broad range of designing and making activities, which involve a variety of methods of communication, eg. speaking, designing, assembling, making, writing and using information and communication technology. These activities can be differentiated through careful planning and the selection of resources which are appropriate for different ages and abilities.

When designing and making, pupils should be taught to:

### **Design**

- use research and develop design criteria to inform the design of innovative, functional, appealing products that are fit for purpose, aimed at particular individuals or groups;
- generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through discussion, annotated sketches, cross-sectional and exploded diagrams, prototypes, pattern pieces and computer-aided design.

## **Make**

- select from and use a wider range of tools and equipment to perform practical tasks [for example, cutting, shaping, joining and finishing], accurately;
- select from and use a wider range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities.

## **Evaluate**

- investigate and analyse a range of existing products;
  - evaluate their ideas and products against their own design criteria and consider the views of others to improve their work;
- understand how key events and individuals in design and technology have helped shape the world.

## **Technical knowledge**

- apply their understanding of how to strengthen, stiffen and reinforce more complex structures;
- understand and use mechanical systems in their products [for example, gears, pulleys, cams, levers and linkages];
- understand and use electrical systems in their products [for example, series circuits incorporating switches, bulbs, buzzers and motors];
- apply their understanding of computing to program, monitor and control their products.

## **Cooking and nutrition**

As part of their work with food, pupils should be taught how to cook and apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating. Instilling a love of cooking in pupils will also open a door to one of the great expressions of human creativity. Learning how to cook is a crucial life skill that enables pupils to feed themselves and others affordably and well, now and in later life; understanding the nutritional value of food and how to prepare themselves a healthy meal.

Pupils should be taught to:

### **Key stage 1**

- use the basic principles of a healthy and varied diet to prepare dishes;
- understand where food comes from.

### **Key stage 2**

- understand and apply the principles of a healthy and varied diet;

- prepare and cook a variety of predominantly savoury dishes using a range of cooking techniques;
- understand seasonality, and know where and how a variety of ingredients are grown, reared, caught and processed.

In the Foundation Stage - Nursery and Reception - the curriculum is guided by the Early Learning Goals, which lead directly into the National Curriculum.

## **Implementation**

Long term planning is based on the yearly teaching programmes set out in the National Curriculum and outlined in Sacred Heart Primary School's 'Whole School Curriculum' document. This ensures that our children can develop depth in their DT knowledge and skills over the duration of the academic year.

Medium term planning is carried out half-termly in year group teams. Teachers select their main teaching objectives from the yearly teaching programme and use this to ensure a balanced design and technology curriculum.

Lessons follow a logical format with an introduction, direct teaching, main activity and plenary. It is made clear to the children at the start of the lesson exactly what it is they will learn as the objectives are shared with them.

The teaching provides opportunities for:

- group work;
- paired work, including mixed ability and similar ability pairs;
- whole class teaching;
- individual work. The pupils engage in:
  - the development of mental skill and strategy;
  - written recording;
  - practical work;
  - work and exploration in Forest School;
  - investigations;
  - problem solving;
  - design and technology focussed discussion;
  - consolidation of basic skills and routines.

When teaching a nutrition-based unit of work, we teach pupils how to follow proper procedures for food safety and hygiene and using tools (such as cutting equipment) safely.

We recognise the importance of establishing a secure foundation in design and technology and of teaching and using vocabulary appropriate to the task. We endeavour to set work that is challenging, motivating and which encourages the pupils to talk about what they have been doing.

In EYFS, design and technology plays an important role in the curriculum. Through the 'Expressive Arts and Design' strand of the EYFS curriculum, children are encouraged to explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, as well as share their creations with others. This feeds appropriately into the key stage 1 curriculum.

In both KS1 and KS2, design and technology lessons are an integral part of the curriculum. It is taught discretely, every other half-term.

Differentiation in design and technology takes place through outcome, or by task across the school.

### **Impact**

The impact of our Design and Technology Curriculum is that children develop imaginative thinking which enables them to talk about what they like and dislike when designing and making. Our pupils will be able to talk about how things work, and to draw and model their ideas. Throughout the design, make, evaluate cycle, pupils are encouraged to select appropriate tools and techniques for making a product, whilst also following safe procedures, which are modelled by class teachers.

By the time children leave us at the end of KS2, they will be fully equipped to continue to develop their technical knowledge in this area, with a sound understanding of technological processes, products, and their manufacture, and their contribution to our society.

Teachers assess the children's progress at the end of each unit of work. Long term assessments are carried out towards the end of the school year when pupils' attainment is measured against the record of key objectives for the subject.