

Design and Technology



Intent

At Firs Primary School Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject that prepares pupils to be resourceful, innovative and reflective problem solvers. We want every child, regardless of background, language, or starting point, to see themselves as a designer, maker, and innovator. Through D&T, pupils will learn to combine creativity with technical understanding, developing a love of learning that equips them for an ever-changing world.

We aim to provide cross curricular links with all other subjects including mathematics, science, art and design. We will pay close attention to sustainability. Crossover links will occur with Science with projects across different Key Stages incorporating this. We want our curriculum to represent the diversity and knowledge within our school community..

In addition, pupils gain an essential life skill through learning about nutrition and food. They are taught how to cook and how to apply the principles of healthy eating. By fostering a love of cooking, we not only prepare children for independence but also open the door to one of the greatest forms of human creativity.

For every Design and Technology unit, key vocabulary is identified and categorised into three tiers: Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3. These words are displayed on topic walls, and children are encouraged to use them meaningfully throughout their lessons.

We aim to broaden pupils' horizons by introducing them to the best ideas, inventions, and innovators that have shaped society. This includes exploring the work of diverse inventors and key figures, ensuring that different genders, ethnicities, and cultures are represented to promote equality, tolerance, and acceptance.

Children are regularly encouraged through oracy to discuss their ideas, reflect on their work, and ask questions.

We enrich the curriculum through clubs such as Baking, where pupils follow recipes and explore different flavours, and Textiles Clubs, where they learn sewing, knitting, and creative design. These opportunities allow pupils to deepen skills, develop confidence, and celebrate the creativity of their peers.

Implementation

We ensure that the sequence of learning allows children to build knowledge and skills progressively so that learning is embedded and retained. Design and Technology is taught through a cyclical model where core strands—designing, making, evaluating, technical knowledge, and cooking & nutrition—are revisited at each key stage. Each time these strands are revisited, pupils build on prior knowledge, deepening their understanding and applying skills in increasingly complex contexts. Progression grids and “topic on a page” documents provide teachers with clarity about what has been taught before, what must be taught now, and how this prepares children for future learning.

We recognise that confident and knowledgeable staff are essential for high-quality teaching. Staff questionnaires are used to identify areas where additional support is needed, and CPD is provided accordingly. Open dialogue within teams ensures continuous reflection and professional development. Clear progression documentation provides teachers with guidance on expected outcomes, ensuring consistency across year groups.

Across our two-year cycle, pupils in KS1, LKS2, and UKS2 complete at least six projects. These projects are carefully planned to ensure breadth and depth across all strands of D&T. Cross-curricular links with science, computing, PSHE, and art enable children to revisit and apply prior learning in meaningful ways, consolidating understanding.

Teachers plan with prior learning in mind, identifying what skills and knowledge pupils have already covered. Where children have gaps—for example, due to absence—teachers revisit previous content to ensure no child misses key objectives. Differentiation is embedded in planning, with adaptations made through visual resources, sentence stems, additional scaffolding, or targeted support. More able pupils are challenged through tasks that deepen reasoning, encourage innovation, and develop critical evaluation skills

Formative assessment is ongoing and used to address misconceptions immediately within lessons. At the end of each project, teachers complete summative assessments based on curriculum objectives. These assessments are then used to inform future planning, ensuring that subsequent projects meet the needs of all learners by focusing on the areas that require consolidation or extension.

Learning is recorded in ways that reflect the practical and creative nature of the subject. This may include whole-class topic books, individual topic books, annotated photographs, sketches, and written reflections. These records provide evidence of both process and outcome, showcasing progression over time. Through this recording, teachers use assessment which then frames future projects and planning.

Impact

Design and Technology will be monitored through a variety of approaches, including book looks, staff voice, pupil voice, lesson walkthroughs, and data analysis. Monitoring may be carried out by members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Middle Leadership Team (MLT), or the Design and Technology subject lead. This ensures that standards are consistent across the school and that strengths and areas for development are identified and acted upon.

To ensure knowledge retention, pupils will have retrieval practise in each lesson based on prior learning, both within the unit and during prior terms and years. This will take on a variety of formats depending on the context of the class and the children's needs.

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils, including disadvantaged and SEND learners, achieve success in Design and Technology. Through practical, hands-on experiences and real-life applications, these pupils are encouraged to develop essential life skills that promote independence and resilience. D&T provides opportunities for all children to excel, regardless of starting points, and supports them in developing transferable skills that may inspire future aspirations and open doors to a wide range of career opportunities.