

St Stephens Community Academy Design and Technology Policy

Aims and objectives

Design and technology prepares children to take part in the development of tomorrow's rapidly changing world. Creative thinking encourages children to make positive changes to their quality of life. The subject encourages children to become creative problem-solvers, both as individuals and as part of a team. It enables them to identify needs and opportunities and to respond by developing ideas and eventually making products and systems. Through the study of design and technology they combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetic, social and environmental issues, as well as functions and industrial practices. This allows them to reflect on and evaluate present and past design and technology, its uses and its impacts. Design and technology helps all children to become informed consumers and potential innovators.

The aims of design and technology are:

- to develop imaginative thinking in children and to enable them to talk about what they like and dislike when designing and making;
- to enable children to talk about how things work, and to draw and model their ideas;
- to encourage children to select appropriate tools and techniques for making a product, whilst following safe procedures;
- to develop an understanding of technological processes, products, and their manufacture, and their contribution to our society;
- to foster enjoyment, satisfaction and purpose in designing and making.

Teaching and learning style

The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in design and technology lessons. The principal aim is to develop children's knowledge, skills and understanding in design and technology. Teachers ensure that the children apply their knowledge and understanding through the cyclical process of designing and making products:

- developing ideas (through research and evaluation of existing products)
- planning and making products (including Focussed Practical Tasks (FPTs))
- and then evaluating them.

We do this through a mixture of whole-class teaching and individual/group activities so children are given the opportunity to work independently but also to collaborate with others, listening to other children's ideas and treating these with respect. Children critically evaluate existing products, their own work and that of others. They have the opportunity to use a wide range of materials and resources, including ICT.

Design and Technology Curriculum Planning

Design and technology is a foundation subject in the National Curriculum. Our school will use the national scheme of work as the basis for its curriculum planning in design and technology. The design and technology subject lead has then mapped out the knowledge and skills that will be taught by each year group (from the early years all the way up to year 6). This ensures progression throughout the school. Individual teachers will then design their own classes D&T sequence of learning using this document. Teachers are expected to teach design and technology once a term.

The Foundation Stage

We encourage the development of skills, knowledge and understanding that help reception children make sense of their world as an integral part of the school's work. This learning forms the foundations for later work in design and technology. These early experiences include asking questions about how things work, investigating and using a variety of construction kits, materials, tools and products, developing making skills and handling appropriate tools and construction material safely and with increasing control.

We provide a range of experiences that encourage exploration, observation, problem solving, critical thinking and discussion. These activities, indoors and outdoors, attract the children's interest and curiosity.

Assessment and recording

Teachers assess children's work in design and technology by making assessments as they observe them working during lessons. They record the progress that children make by assessing the children's work against the learning objectives for their lessons. Teachers then use the knowledge that they have gained to plan the future work of each child and to make an annual assessment of progress for each child, as part of the annual report to parents. Each teacher passes this information on to the next teacher at the end of each year.

The design and technology subject leader monitors children's progression of knowledge and skills across the school by completing regular book looks (including scrap books), learning walks and discussion with pupils. Evidence of this is kept on a monitoring sheet. The subject lead may also keep evidence of the children's work in a portfolio.

Resources

Our school has a wide range of resources to support the teaching of design and technology across the year groups. This is monitored and resourced by the design and technology subject lead. Classrooms have a range of basic resources, with the more specialised equipment being kept in the design and technology cupboard. This cupboard is only accessible to adults.

Health and safety

The general teaching requirement for health and safety applies in this subject. We teach children how to follow proper procedures for food safety and hygiene.