

ST JAMES' DESIGN TECHNOLOGY POLICY

This policy has the school values at its heart:

**Faith in action,
Working together,
Walking in the footsteps of Christ**

Our Vision is:

Share our love of God every day in all that we learn, do and say.

Aim

Design Technology at St James' is about applying knowledge and skills to solve a practical problem. It is a purposeful activity in response to real needs and opportunities from recognisable situations. Pupils apply their knowledge and skills, to the best of their ability, to succeed in designing and making a good product using a range of materials and tools.

Teaching and Learning

At St James' we believe that the characteristics of high-quality teaching and learning of Design Technology are:

- Setting suitable learning challenges which make the children problem solve and critically think.
- Designing, making and reflecting on different projects and outcomes.
- Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs and overcoming potential barriers to learning for individuals and groups of children.

Each unit of work will always include three types of activity as specified by the National Curriculum:

- Design- developing, researching, communicating and planning ideas.
- Make – Selecting and making a design using a variety of resources.
- Evaluate- reviewing and evaluating ideas and products.

All three elements will require technical knowledge – such as building structures and using mechanical systems. Within each design product the children will also learn about current designers, architects and artists in order to understand projects further.

Learning outcomes

Children will design and make a range of products. A good quality finish will be expected in all designs and they will be planned appropriately to the age and ability of the child. All children will record their designing and making in their DT books. These books will start from Year 1 and will stay with the children for two years to show progression (Year 1+2, Year 3+4 and Year 5+6).

Delivery

The National Curriculum Design Technology Programme of Study sets out what should be taught in all aspects of DT for each key stage, and the standards expected of pupils as they progress. The school has set its own programme of study to support in the teaching and learning of Design Technology, adapting the context of the topics to suit the children's needs and interests.

Planning

At St James' we have decided to teach two units of work in each year, apart from in Year 6. Staff should refer to the curriculum map which outlines each year group's topic, key skills and vocabulary. Topics are kept up to date and there is flexibility to adapt these to suit the needs of the pupils. All medium-term planning is monitored by the Subject Leader to ensure that progression and depth is taught.

Early Years

In EYFS, design and technology is taught through 'Expressive arts and design'. Children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. They design and make in free flow and during direct activities. They will be encouraged to reflect on their design and how they can best achieve and adapt them. They will begin to develop technical knowledge by learning how to use adhesive tape, glue and a variety of other materials and tools with precision.

Cooking

Cooking is part of the National Curriculum and it is compulsory that children have opportunities to experience cooking. Across all year groups the children will experience cooking at St James' each term. In KS1 and reception, parent volunteers are used to teach different recipes as well as sessions run by their class teachers. All children will understand basic cooking hygiene and learn how to use a variety of simple cooking utensils. Throughout their time at St James' the children will make a variety of sweet and savoury dishes. They will begin to understand where produce comes from and how we can become more sustainable with this. Each class has designated recipes which link to class topics and the school garden produce. Please refer to the yearly overview.

Differentiation

The schemes of work indicate expectations for children undertaking any given unit of work. In general, differentiation is by outcome. All children will be encouraged and supported in developing their design technology capabilities. We recognise the importance of identifying the specific difficulties that individual children may have and adopting appropriate teaching or organisational strategies accordingly.

Assessment

Staff should refer to the Assessment for Learning Policy. Staff carry out teacher assessment for each unit and complete the assessment grid sheets created by the subject lead. The Subject Leader will carry out a work scrutiny, pupil interviews and take samples for a portfolio for evidence.

Time

Each Design Technology Unit has a time scale of between six and eleven hours. Lessons will be taught weekly in the designated term however some topics do require some flexibility and require that teachers block lessons together. This will be stated in bold on teacher's medium-term plans. This facilitates immersing the children in the topic and allows more convenient use of resources. Some DT topics and Art topics might be taught in the same term however they are treated as separate subjects and are not combined. They might be rotated on teacher's timetables every other week whilst there is a short overlap.

Resources

Consumable materials are organised in unit boxes and located in the classrooms. Stock is replenished by class teachers at the end of each unit using the class budget.

Sharp tools such as saws are kept in trays which are located in the house and can be moved to the required classroom when necessary.

Cooking equipment for KS1 is located in the cooking room along with the relevant safety equipment such as a fire blanket. Cooking equipment for KS2 is located in the house. All staff and parent volunteers will read and sign the health and safety guidance before they cook. This is monitored by the Subject Leader.

Each class has a range of construction equipment such as K'Nex and Lego to supplement the teaching and learning of Design Technology.

Health and Safety

Teachers will always teach the safe use of tools and equipment and insist on good practise. Detailed health and safety guidance is available in the NAAIDT publication 'Make it safe' available from the Subject Leader. Each process topic must contain a safety page for the children to record knowledge and understanding of how to use the appropriate tools safely.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be updated in line with any new developments in the school and/or any new government guidance.

It was last reviewed in: spring 2024

It will next be reviewed in: spring 2027

This statement of policy was approved by the Governing Body at their meeting on:-

Date: _____

Signed:

_____ (Chairperson)

_____ (Head teacher)