St Michael's Catholic Primary School
Design Technology Curriculum

"Design is a funny word. Some people think design means how it looks, but of course if you look deeper, it is really how it works."

Steve Jobs

"Technology makes possibilities. Design makes solutions."

John Maeda

Design Technology prepares children to deal with our rapidly changing world. It encourages children to become independent and creative problem solvers who think as individuals and work as part of a team. It enables them to identify needs and opportunities, and to respond to them by developing a range of ideas and by making products and systems. Through the study of Design and Technology, they combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetics and function. This allows them to reflect on present and past design and technology and evaluate its uses and its impacts. Design and Technology helps all children to become astute and informed future consumers and potential innovators.

Intention

It is our intention at St Michael's for Design Technology to be taught in all year groups, one topic per term, which includes one topic relating to food. Design Technology projects are sometimes cross-curricular- linking to other subjects taught. Our curriculum follows the National Curriculum learning objectives and has been designed to enthuse and interest the pupils of St Michael's.

Our Design Technology curriculum has been developed to allow our children to be exposed to various artists and techniques.

Implementation

The teaching of Design Technology across the school follows the National Curriculum. Children design products with a purpose and an intended user in mind. Food Technology is implemented across the school, with children developing an understanding of where food comes from, the importance of a varied and healthy diet and how to prepare this.

Our sequenced units of work allow the children to experiment and explore the techniques to secure their knowledge of how to create a design in their own unique way. We start by researching a product or a structure. We then develop the skills and techniques needed to produce a product. Finally, our pupils analyse their products and consider the implication of design in the wider world.

Our Design Technology curriculum has been designed to build upon pupil's prior learning. This allows the children to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding. The curriculum has been planned with progression into each unit of work, so that children are increasingly challenged as they progress through school.

Impact

Teachers assess formative and summative work in Design Technology by making observations of the children working during lessons. At the end of a unit of work, teachers will assess the children's progress and attainment against the learning objective for that unit of work.

By the time children leave St Michael's they will have acquired:

- creativity, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world
- build and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users
- evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others
- understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook/prepare a variety of dishes