



Design Technology

Intent, Implementation and Impact

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, we believe Design and Technology (DT) equips pupils with the skills, creativity and resilience needed to solve real life problems. Through designing, making and evaluating, pupils develop practical skills and technical knowledge across the key strands of mechanisms, structures, textiles, food and electrical systems, in line with National Curriculum expectations.

Our DT curriculum provides pupils with opportunities to learn about a wide range of inventors, designers and engineers, developing an understanding of how design and technological innovation has shaped the past and continues to influence the world today. By exploring historical developments alongside modern design, pupils build a strong foundation of knowledge that enables them to work collaboratively, persevere through challenges and create purposeful products that meet the needs of users.

Intent

Our Design and Technology curriculum aims to inspire pupils to become creative, practical and reflective designers. Through the Kapow Primary Design and Technology curriculum, pupils develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to design, make and evaluate purposeful products for a range of users.

We intend for pupils to:

- Develop practical skills through designing, making and evaluating products
- Use creativity and imagination to solve problems in real-world contexts
- Gain knowledge across the key National Curriculum strands of mechanisms, structures, textiles, food and electrical systems
- Understand how design and technological innovation has shaped the world over time
- Learn about a wide range of inventors, designers and engineers from different backgrounds

- Take risks, evaluate ideas and make improvements
- Work independently and collaboratively with responsibility and respect

Implementation

At St Cuthbert's, Design and Technology is taught using the Kapow Primary Design and Technology curriculum, which is fully aligned with the National Curriculum and provides clear progression of skills and knowledge from Early Years to Year 6.

Key features of our DT curriculum include:

- Structured units covering mechanisms, structures, textiles, food and electrical systems
- A clear design–make–evaluate cycle embedded in every unit
- Opportunities to research existing products and designs, including those from different historical periods
- Learning about influential and diverse inventors, designers and engineers, and the impact of their work
- Explicit teaching of technical vocabulary, tools and processes
- Practical opportunities to design, construct, test and refine products using high-quality resources

Lessons are purposeful, engaging and hands-on, enabling pupils to apply skills safely and effectively. Teaching is inclusive and adapted to meet the needs of all learners. Where appropriate, meaningful links are made with science, mathematics, computing, history and art, helping pupils to place design and technology learning within wider real-world and historical contexts.

Food technology is taught with a strong emphasis on healthy eating, nutrition, hygiene and safety, enabling pupils to develop essential life skills and an understanding of where food comes from.

Monitoring

Assessment in Design and Technology is ongoing and formative. Teachers assess pupils' progress through observation, discussion, practical outcomes and evaluation activities. School assessment tools are used to support consistent judgement, identify next steps and ensure progression of skills and knowledge.

Impact

By the time pupils leave St Cuthbert's Primary School, they will:

- Have a strong understanding of the design process and key technical skills
- Be able to confidently design, make and evaluate a range of products
- Demonstrate creativity, problem-solving skills and resilience
- Work effectively as part of a team and communicate ideas clearly
- Understand how design and technology has developed over time and impacts everyday life
- Appreciate the contributions of inventors and designers and how innovation shapes the modern world

Our Design and Technology curriculum ensures pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education, equipping them with transferable skills that promote creativity, critical thinking and innovation.