

What does Design Technology look like at Vicarage Primary School?

At Vicarage School our Design Technology curriculum is informed by the National Curriculum and provides pupils with a real life context for learning.

We believe that Design and Technology should aspire, engage, and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to explore, experiment, invent and create. Through the Design Technology curriculum, pupils will be inspired by engineers, designers, chefs and architects to enable them to create a range of structures, mechanisms, textiles, electrical systems and food products with a real life purpose.

Design Technology is taught in discreet lessons, this means that pupils are able to develop depth in their knowledge and skills over the duration of each of the topics covered. Cross-curricular links are made with wider subjects such as mathematics, science, engineering, computing and art.

All teaching of DT follows the design, make and evaluate cycle. The design process is rooted in real life, relevant contexts to give meaning to learning. While making, pupils are given the choice and a range of tools to choose freely from. To evaluate, Pupils are able to evaluate their own products against a design criteria. Each of these steps are rooted in technical knowledge and vocabulary.

Our Design Technology curriculum is based on three key concepts, Health & Well-being
Master process of design and be Innovative
Make inspiration from design throughout history and draw upon core disciplines

These key concepts are the 'big ideas' which run as threads through the curriculum. The same key concepts are explored and revisited in each unit of work in every year group. This enables pupils to build on prior knowledge, deepen their contextual knowledge and always working towards the bigger picture of achievement at the end of each year group or phase.

Teaching and Learning is scaffolded to support all types of learners, building resilience and achieving excellence in a well-supported environment.

What do the children enjoy about Design Technology at Vicarage Primary School?

Year 4: "I enjoy D&T because it's fun, creative and we get a chance to make cool things"

Year 5: "I like inventions and through D&T, we become inventors. Hopefully, one day, I'll create something from scratch for the World to see."

Year 6: "D&T is all about researching something, having a chance to design and explore ideas, and then the best bit: making!"

Design and Technology at Vicarage Primary School

Examples of learning and enrichment activities at Vicarage Primary School:

As part of developing healthy eating and lifestyles our pupils have the opportunity to work with Juniper Ventures. The aim of the sessions is to teach pupils an array of topics, including food presentation skills, hygiene practices and food provenance. The session are 'hands on' and aids pupils in developing teamwork and communication skills.

Some of the projects pupils have been involved in;

Making bread
Making a fruit pizza
Smoothie bike challenge
Omelette challenge

Reasons for learning Design and Technology

At Vicarage Primary School, we provide our pupils with a platform and encourage them to take ownership of their learning. Taking an idea, designing it, making it and then evaluating it. In doing so, they become resilient – a key life skill and one of our school values that we promote.

Pupils have the opportunity to work with structures, mechanisms, electrical circuits and a range of other materials, including food. Working with such a vast array of resources gives our pupils the confidence to articulate their thoughts clearly and provide rationale.

The knowledge and skills acquired through design and technology at Vicarage Primary School enable pupils to leave us, well equipped to achieve excellence through flexibility, in a fast moving World.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- ✓ **Pupil conferencing** – Are children happy, engaged, motivated to do well, challenged? Do they know more? Can they remember more?
- ✓ **Assessment** – Exit quiz and evaluations completed at the end of each topic to assess pupil's understanding, knowledge and skills. The information from assessments will be used to inform leaders of school improvements or skills that need to be further enhanced.
- ✓ **Book Looks** – Are all children making at least sufficient progress from their various starting points? Images and videos of pupil's practical learning.
- ✓ **Lesson Visits** – Quality of teaching and learning is good to outstanding
- ✓ **Parent surveys** – Are parents happy with the curriculum we provide, if not – how can we improve?
- ✓ **Subject portfolio** – Can you see progression of skills and knowledge across the school? Is the curriculum ambitious and goes beyond the National Curriculum?