Why is Design Technology important?

Design Technology helps us to develop as reflective learners, as we work through the design process.

Through design technology, we are able to work collaboratively to solve problems and find solutions, teaching us to deal with uncertainty whilst developing communication, organisational and other practical life skills.

In design technology, we learn to appreciate the needs of others, the built environment and the likely impact of future technologies.

When is Design Technology taught?

Design Technology is taught both discretely (Focused Tasks / Design, Make, Evaluate Assignments) and through thematic units. The attached overview (Appendix 1) maps out which thematic units feature this subject. Focused tasks are planned in across each phase (Appendix 2).

How is Design Technology taught?

Design Technology is taught through a combination of subject knowledge, skill building and design and make projects. Food technology is also taught through thematic units and our 3D PSHE programme. Learning takes place both inside and outside the classroom.

What do we learn in Design Technology?

We learn about:-

Mechanisms
Sliders
Levers
Structures
Textiles
Food technology
Electronics

We also complete design technology projects in each phase for specified clients e.g. the pirate, the evil genius, allowing pupils the opportunity to both experiment and apply their knowledge and skills.

How do we assess and monitor Design Technology?

Teachers assess pupils' skills and knowledge in Design Technology using both formative and summative assessment. At the end of each thematic unit, children are assessed in Design Technology as working towards year group expectations (W), meeting year group expectations (E), or exceeding year group expectations (X). Teachers use subject specific criteria from the National Curriculum Programmes of Study to assess pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding within Design Technology.

Summative Assessment data is updated termly and made available to the Design Technology Subject Leader at regular points throughout the year. The Subject Leader uses this to monitor attainment and progress in Design Technology for the whole school.

Subject leaders monitor their subject throughout the year using a range of evidence including pupil and teacher voice, learning walks, learning environments and book scrutiny. Subject leaders also complete a 'Deep Dive' into their subject each year, to monitor pupil progress, and teaching and learning within Design Technology.