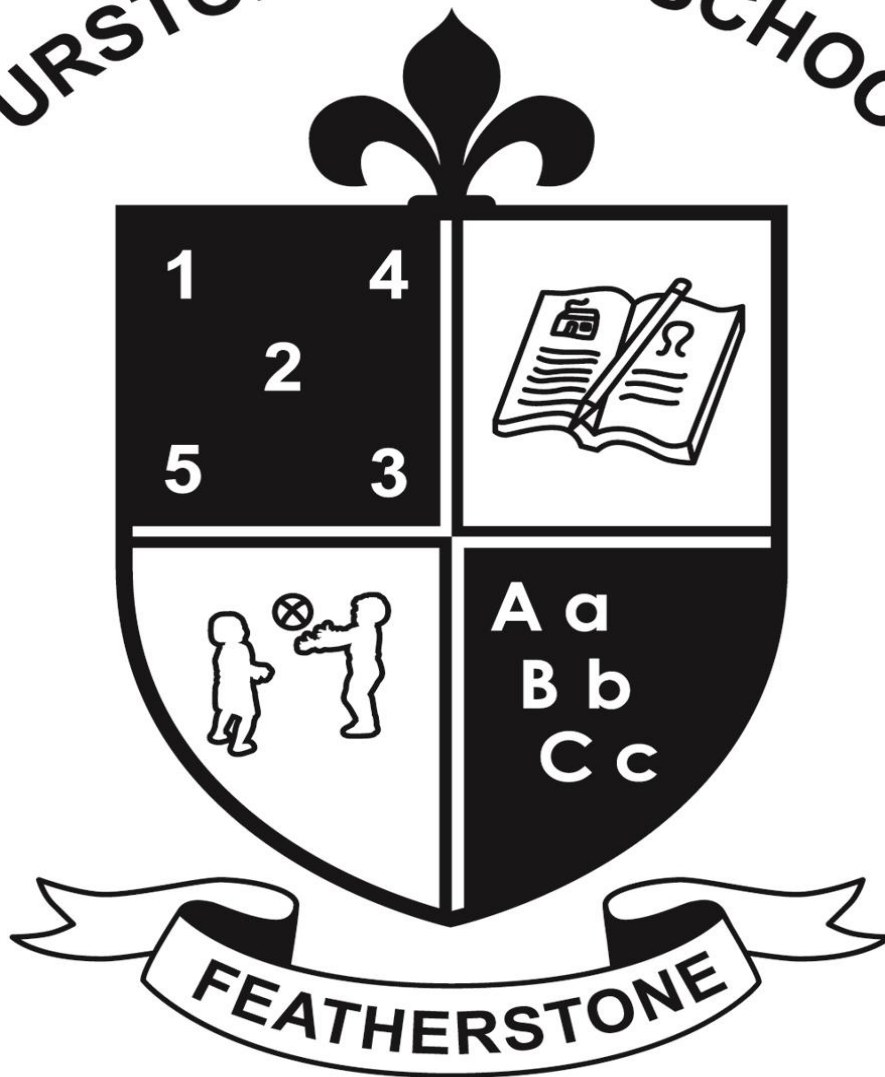


PURSTON INFANT SCHOOL



Design and Technology (DT) Policy

Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.

All children have a natural curiosity about their world from an early age. They want to explore and investigate.

Pupils learn how to take risks, becoming resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable citizens. Through the evaluation of past and present design and technology, they develop a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world. High-quality design and technology education makes an essential contribution to the creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of the nation.

Aims and objectives

Design and technology prepares children to take part in the development of tomorrow's rapidly changing world. Creative thinking encourages children to make positive changes to their quality of life. The subject encourages children to become creative problem-solvers, both as individuals and as part of a team. It enables them to identify needs and opportunities and to respond by developing ideas, and eventually making products and systems. Through the study of design and technology, they combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetic, social and environmental issues. This allows them to reflect on and evaluate present and past design and technology, its uses and its impacts.

Our objectives in the teaching of design and technology are:

- To develop creative and imaginative thinking in children and to enable them to talk about what they like and dislike when designing and making things for our ever increasing technological world;
- To enable children to talk about how things work, and to design and draw their ideas first ;
- To encourage children to select appropriate tools and develop techniques and practical skills and expertise in making a product, whilst following safe procedures;
- To explore attitudes towards the made world and how we live and work within it;
- To develop an understanding of technological processes and products by evaluating and testing their ideas and products,
- To foster enjoyment, satisfaction and purpose in designing and making things;
- To develop the cross-curricular use of design and technology in other subjects.

Teaching and learning style

At Purston we use a variety of teaching and learning styles in design and technology lessons. The principal aim is to develop children's knowledge, skills and understanding in design and technology. Teachers ensure that the children apply their knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning and making products, and then evaluating them. We do this through a mixture of whole-class teaching and individual or group activities. Within lessons, we give children the opportunity both to work on their own and to collaborate with others, listening to other children's ideas and treating these with respect. Children critically evaluate existing products, their own work and that of others. They have the opportunity to use a wide range of materials and resources.

In all classes, there are children of differing ability. We recognise this fact and provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this through a range of strategies:

- setting common tasks that are open-ended and can have a variety of results;
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty where not all children complete all tasks;
- providing a range of challenges through the provision of different resources;
- using additional adults to support the work of individual children or small groups

Design and Technology Curriculum Planning

Key Stage 1

At our school we use the National Curriculum and Development Matters, as the basis for its curriculum planning in design and technology.

We carry out the curriculum planning in design and technology in three phases: long-term, medium-term and short-term.

The long-term plan maps out the units covered in each term during the key stage.

Our medium-term plans, which we have adopted from the National Curriculum and Development Matters, give details of each unit of work for each term. They identify learning objectives and outcomes for each unit, and ensure an appropriate balance and distribution of work across each term.

Class teachers complete a short-term plan for design and technology. This lists the specific learning objectives and expected outcomes for each lesson, and detail how the lessons are to be taught and how success will be measured.

At Purston we plan the activities in design and technology so that they build on the prior learning of the children. We give children of all abilities the opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding, and we also build-planned progression into the scheme of work, so that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school.

Foundation Stage

We encourage the development of skills, knowledge and understanding that help foundation stage children make sense of their world as an integral part of the school's work. The children's technological understanding of the world and expressive art & design is linked to the statements set out in the Development Matters document. This underpins the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. This learning forms the foundations for later work in design and technology. These early experiences include asking questions about how things work, investigating and using a variety of construction kits, materials, tools and products, developing making skills and handling appropriate tools and construction materials safely and with increasing control.

We provide a range of experiences that encourage exploration, observation, problem-solving, critical thinking and discussion. These activities, indoors and outdoors, attract the children's interest and curiosity.

Other Curriculum Areas

English

Design and technology contributes to the teaching of English in our school by providing valuable opportunities to reinforce what the children have been doing during their English lessons. Discussion, drama and role-play are important ways for the children to develop an understanding of the fact that people have different views about design and technology. The evaluation of products requires children to articulate their ideas and to compare and contrast their views with those of other people. Through discussion, children learn to justify their own views and clarify their design ideas.

Mathematics

In design and technology, there are many opportunities for children to apply their mathematical skills through choosing and using appropriate ways of calculating measurements and distances. They learn how to check the results of calculations for reasonableness, and learn how to use an appropriate degree of accuracy for different contexts. Children learn to measure and use equipment correctly. The children will carry out investigations, and in doing so, they will learn to read and interpret scales, collect and present data, and draw their own conclusions. They will learn about size and shape, and make practical use of their mathematical knowledge, in order to be creative and practical in their designs and modelling.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

The teaching of design and technology offers opportunities to support the social development of our children through the way in which we expect them to work with each other in lessons. Our groupings allow children to work together, and give them the chance to discuss their ideas and feelings about their own work and the work of others. Through their collaborative and cooperative work across a range of activities and experiences in design and technology, the children develop respect for the abilities of other children, and a better understanding of themselves. They also develop a respect for the environment, for their own health and safety, and for that of others. They develop their cultural awareness and understanding, and they learn to appreciate the value of differences and similarities. A variety of experiences teaches them to appreciate that all people are equally important, and that the needs of individuals are not the same as the needs of groups.

SEND

At our school, we teach design and technology to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Design and technology implements the school curriculum policy of providing a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our design and technology teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. For further details, see separate policies.

Assessment and Recording

Teachers assess children's work in design and technology by making assessments as they observe them working during lessons. They record the progress that children make by assessing the children's work against the learning objectives for their lessons. At the end of a unit of work, teachers make a judgement against the National Curriculum levels of attainment. Older children are encouraged to make judgements on ways in which their work can be improved. Teachers then use their own assessment to record and plan the future work for each child.

In the early years we assess children against the Development Matters stages and Early Learning Goals, this informs the Early Years Profile.

Resources

We have a selection of resources for all design and technology units in school. Classrooms have a range of basic resources and more specialised equipment is kept in the central store cupboard.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of the design and technology leader to monitor the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching in design and technology. The design and technology subject leader is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of design and technology, for being informed about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. The design and technology subject leader gives the head teacher an annual summary report in which s/he evaluates strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicates areas for further improvement. The design and technology leader has specially-allocated time for fulfilling the vital task of reviewing samples of children's work and visiting classes to observe teaching in the subject.

Health and safety

In this subject, the general teaching requirement for health and safety applies. We teach children how to follow proper procedures for food safety and hygiene and when using specialised equipment.