Design and Technology
INTENT, IMPLEMENTATION, IMPACT
Updated January 2024

INTENT

At St Joseph's, we are driven by a steadfast commitment to providing an education in Design and Technology that transcends conventional boundaries. Our intent is to instil in our children not only a deep appreciation for the inspiring and practical aspects of this subject, but also to nurture their innate creativity and problem-solving abilities. We believe in fostering a learning environment where children can think innovatively, whether as independent thinkers or collaborative team members.

Our dedication to creating memorable experiences is reflected in our Design Technology Curriculum, Corner Stones. Through carefully crafted projects each term, we aim to immerse our children in hands-on, real-world scenarios that challenge them to design and make products addressing genuine problems. These projects thread across various foundation curriculum areas, enriching the learning experience and demonstrating the interconnectedness of knowledge.

We go beyond merely meeting the national curriculum standards; we strive to exceed them. Our children have access to a curriculum that not only imparts essential skills and knowledge, but also cultivates a mindset of continuous improvement and excellence in Design Technology. We recognise the importance of time in the learning process, ensuring that our children have the necessary space to delve deeply into acquiring the skills that will serve them well in the future.

In a world marked by rapid change, we see Design Technology as a catalyst for resilience, innovation, and risk-taking. By encouraging our children to embrace challenges, we empower them to become not only proficient designers, but also adaptable problem-solvers who can navigate the evolving landscape of their lives.

At St Joseph's, our intent is clear: to nurture a generation of young minds who are not just adept in Design and Technology, but are poised to become leaders, innovators, and compassionate contributors to a world that demands both creativity and resilience.

IMPLEMENTATION

At St. Joseph's, we are dedicated to the effective and comprehensive implementation of our Design and Technology curriculum. Our approach encompasses a strategic framework that ensures a rich and meaningful learning experience for all our students. The following points outline our key strategies and commitments in the implementation of Design and Technology:

1. **Curriculum Integration:**
    - Design and Technology is seamlessly integrated into the broader curriculum, aligning with national standards. Our curriculum projects in Key Stages 1 and 2, supported by Corner Stones, provide a cohesive structure that fosters connections between different subject areas, promoting interdisciplinary learning.
2. **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Focus:**

- In the EYFS, Design and Technology is incorporated into the Expressive Arts and Design domain, emphasising imagination, creativity, self-expression, and communication through arts. This early exposure lays the foundation for future exploration and understanding of design principles.

3. **Resource-Rich Learning Environment:**
    - Our dedicated Design Technology room serves as a hub for immersive and specialized learning. Equipped with the necessary tools, materials, and technology, this space enhances the learning experience and encourages hands-on exploration and experimentation.
4. **Corner Stones Scheme of Work:**
    - We utilise Corner Stones as our primary scheme of work for stand-alone Design & Technology lessons. This resource provides comprehensive lesson plans, teaching videos, and advice to support educators in delivering high-quality, engaging lessons that promote effective teaching and learning.
5. **Local and Real-World Connections:**
    - Our commitment extends beyond the classroom, as students are given opportunities to draw inspiration from the local surrounding area. Real-world problem-solving is integrated into projects, allowing students to connect their learning to the world around them and understand the relevance of Design and Technology in everyday life.
6. **Progression and Skill Development:**
    - Through a carefully structured curriculum, we ensure a progressive development of skills throughout a student's journey at our school. This approach guarantees that students build upon their knowledge and abilities, preparing them for the increasing complexity of design challenges as they advance through the Key Stages.
7. **Professional Development:**
    - Continuous professional development is a priority for our educators. Regular training sessions, workshops, and collaborative opportunities are provided to ensure that our teaching staff stays informed about the latest trends, technologies, and methodologies in Design and Technology education.
8. **Monitoring and Evaluation:**
    - We employ robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of our Design and Technology implementation. This includes regular reviews of lesson plans, student work, and feedback from educators, children, and parents, ensuring continuous improvement.

By adhering to these strategies, we aim to create a dynamic and enriching learning environment where Design and Technology becomes a powerful vehicle for cultivating creativity, problem-solving skills, and resilience in our children. Through thoughtful implementation, we strive to equip our students with the necessary skills and mindset to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

IMPACT

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Otley
a Voluntary Academy
As a family with God in our hearts, we love, laugh and learn.

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At St. Joseph's, the enjoyment and value placed on Design and Technology are evident as our children embark on a journey of creativity and skill development. We aim to instil in them a profound understanding and appreciation of the significance of Design Technology in their personal wellbeing and its vast applications in the creative and cultural industries, offering a myriad of potential career opportunities.

Our commitment to tracking progress in Design and Technology is robust and multifaceted. Through regular reviews and evaluations of children's work, we ensure that skill progression is taking place. This involves a comprehensive approach, including a longitudinal examination of pupils' work as they accumulate skills and knowledge, direct observations of their performance, and engaging discussions during lessons. We actively communicate with the children, valuing their input and understanding of what they've learned.

The Design and Technology curriculum at our school is designed not only to impart technical skills, but also to contribute significantly to children's personal development. We aspire to cultivate creativity, independence, and self-reflection. As a result, our children confidently and critically discuss their work, showcasing not only the outcomes but also the thought processes and problem-solving strategies that led to them.

The progress made by our children is not solely measured by the final outcomes but is equally evident in the journey they undertake during the creative process and their self-evaluations at the end of a topic. We encourage our children to share their work with others, fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment. Through these intentional efforts, we aim to nurture well-rounded individuals who not only excel in Design and Technology but also exhibit confidence, critical thinking, and effective communication skills – attributes that will serve them well in their academic and professional futures.