

# Fulmer Infant School



## Design & Technology Curriculum Policy

### Intent

Our Design & Technology (D&T) curriculum at Fulmer Infant School aims to nurture creativity, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking in our pupils. The curriculum is divided into three distinct areas: 'cook', 'sew', and 'build'. Each year group will engage in a unit of work in these three areas once a year, ensuring a comprehensive exposure to a variety of D&T skills and concepts.

- **Cultivate Creativity:** Encourage pupils to express their ideas through hands-on activities, promoting imaginative thinking and innovation.
- **Promote Practical Skills:** Equip pupils with fundamental skills in designing, making, and evaluating, which are essential for lifelong learning and future opportunities in the 21st century.
- **Develop Cross-Curricular Links:** Foster connections between D&T and other subjects such as mathematics and science to enhance knowledge and understanding through practical application.
- **Encourage Collaborative Skills:** Create opportunities for pupils to work collaboratively, sharing ideas and supporting one another in their creative processes.

### Implementation

The D&T curriculum is implemented through a well-structured framework comprising three areas of study 'Cook', 'Sew' and 'Build'. Each unit has been devised to be delivered in a five-hour block, once a term. Key components include:

- **Aspirational Learning Objectives:** Each unit specifies the concepts and skills that pupils are expected to learn, with clear intentions that challenge and motivate them, ensuring tasks are tailored to their developmental stage and abilities.
- **Cook Units:** Pupils learn culinary skills through recipes that progressively develop their abilities. Learning about nutrition, seasonality, food production, transportation, and cultural diversity is integral to this area.
- **Sew Units:** Pupils practise sewing techniques using fabric and thread to create objects demonstrating skills in embroidery, appliqué, weaving, and plaiting, while learning about fabric properties, fast fashion, waste and recycling.

- **Build Units:** Pupils explore the creation of structures and mechanical devices. This area connects practical design processes with scientific concepts including force, motion, and material properties.
- **Assessment for Learning:** Continuous assessment strategies track pupils' progress and understanding, enabling timely interventions and adaptations to meet individual needs. Formative feedback is provided to guide improvements.

### **Impact**

The impact of our D&T curriculum is evident in the progress and achievements of our pupils. Key outcomes include:

- **Enhanced Creativity and Problem-Solving:** Pupils demonstrate an ability to think creatively, generate solutions and approach problems with confidence, as evidenced by their increasingly ambitious projects.
- **Secure Skill Development:** By the end of the academic year, pupils show proficiency in key D&T skills, including practical techniques and evaluation, as evidenced in their completed projects and assessments.
- **Positive Attitudes Towards Learning:** Children express enthusiasm for D&T lessons, indicating a cultivated curiosity about design and technology, reflected in student voice surveys.
- **Collaboration and Communication:** Pupils effectively communicate their ideas and work collaboratively, demonstrating social skills that prepare them for future learning environments.
- **Awareness of Sustainability and Innovation:** Through our integrated approach, pupils exhibit understanding of sustainability concepts and the implications of design on the environment, influencing their choices in materials and processes.
- **Parental Involvement and Community Engagement:** The curriculum fosters strong relationships with families and the local community, evidenced by positive feedback from parents engaged in school projects and exhibitions of pupil work.

In summary, our Design & Technology curriculum is designed to be outstanding, ensuring that pupils acquire essential skills while developing a lifelong passion for creativity and innovation. Through careful planning, effective implementation, and ongoing assessment, we strive to create a rich learning environment that prepares our infants for future successes.

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