Design Technology at Northowram Primary School

Inspiring Success Beyond Expectation

Intent

At Northowram Primary School, our intention is to provide a Design and Technology (DT) curriculum that inspires and challenges our pupils, enabling them to acquire essential knowledge, skills, and understanding. We aim to equip our pupils with the confidence and creativity needed to become innovative and resourceful problem solvers, preparing them for future opportunities and careers in an ever-evolving technological world.

Our intent is to ensure that DT is an integral part of our curriculum, promoting cross-curricular links and fostering a love for design, creativity, and practical skills. We use real tools to become efficient product designers who are able to sequence and evaluate products. We strive to instill in our pupils an appreciation for the impact of DT on their daily lives and the wider world, encouraging them to understand the significance of sustainable design and ethical considerations.

Implementation

Our DT curriculum is well-structured, sequenced, and coherent, encompassing the key aspects outlined in the national curriculum. It is designed to build upon prior knowledge and skills, allowing pupils to progress and deepen their understanding as they move through the school. Progression in DT across year groups is carefully planned, logical and challenging. This includes the development of design, practical making, and evaluation skills. We have ensured that each year group has a: Mechanisms, Structures, Textiles and Cooking and Nutrition DT topic throughout the year. Our DT lessons are delivered by skilled and enthusiastic teachers who have expertise and sound subject knowledge in Design and Technology. Our DT curriculum is enhanced through Forest School. Forest school allows children in Reception, Year 1, 3 and 4 to apply their knowledge and skills through different tools and materials to create different products in a contrasting environment. Teachers incorporate both theoretical and practical elements into their lessons, equipping pupils with knowledge of materials, tools, and techniques. This enables them to develop their understanding of the design process and apply this knowledge to solve authentic problems. Pupils work both independently and collaboratively, promoting effective communication and teamwork skills.

Opportunities are found to make meaningful cross-curricular connections with other subjects such as Science, Mathematics, and Art. For example, mechanisms are linked to exploring forces in Science. In Maths, the children's skills of measuring and using the correct unit of measurement, and weight when determining which material is best to use. The children's design and evaluating skills are transferrable between DT and Art. This integration helps pupils to understand the real-world application of DT skills and concepts.

Impact

Through our outstanding DT provision, pupils at Northowram Primary School develop a wide range of technical skills, alongside knowledge of materials, design processes, and practical techniques. DT is taught once a term through 'DT Days'. This maximises the lesson time to allow the children to be more practical and to apply their skills across the days. Pupils have a clear understanding of the importance of safety in design. They can articulate how these factors impact the choices they make in their own projects. Monitoring shows that the standards of pupils' work in DT at Northowram Primary School are consistently high, reflecting their mastery of subject-specific skills and knowledge. Pupils' work is documented, showcased and celebrated in school with a DT display which children's work is added to at the end of projects.