



Spotlight on Design and Technology

What is Design and Technology and how is it taught?

In key stage 1, Design and Technology is taught through the Primary Knowledge Curriculum Programme. Pupils engage in a variety of practical and creative experiences to demonstrate their understanding and the skills necessary to engage in the process of design making. The “design, make, evaluate” model is used at Westfield Infant school to make functional, appealing products through sewing, building, and cooking.

Design and Technology lessons span over the course of a few days throughout the term to make sure that all children have the opportunity to design, make, and evaluate their products.

In EYFS, Design and Technology is facilitated through continuous provision and creative, hands-on learning. Skills and vocabulary are taken from Development Matters and the Primary Knowledge Curriculum Programme. Some of the key skills focused on in EYFS in Design and Technology are: cutting, sticking, fixing, joining, mark making, and painting.

How do we support all learners to access the subject?

Overlearning of vocabulary is huge component of PKC Design and Technology lessons. Vocabulary is frequently revisited in lessons to ensure learner understanding. Building, sewing, and cooking are the three areas of focus throughout key stage 1 and into key stage 2. This provides consistency for children throughout their Design and Technology journey.

SEND and EAL learners may have access to adapted equipment, symbols to ensure understanding, and increased adult support to ensure safety in lessons. Pupil voice is used to make sure all children are able to reflect and give opinions about their learning.

How do we assess the children’s knowledge and understanding in this subject?

Children are assessed in Design and Technology during the “evaluate” portion of a Design and Technology cycle. Children are asked a series of knowledge and vocabulary-based questions about their initial design and product that they produced. Pupils should understand how and why they designed and produced the product in the way that they did; this includes the materials that they used.

How do we involve parents and carers in this subject?

Families are informed about Design and Technology lessons through class Dojo.

How do we promote wider opportunities for this subject area?

Westfield Infant School is a Food for Life school. A whole school approach is used to make healthy, sustainable and tasty food the norm. Some children also have the opportunity throughout the school year to visit a farm to see how food is resourced and then report their findings in a whole school assembly.