



Grange Infant school

Design Technology Policy

A. Rationale

At Grange Infant School, we aim to enable our children to feel confident when approaching tasks that involve design and technology. Design and Technology is a practical subject in which pupils have the experience of designing, making and evaluating products. Design and Technology encourages children to think about products in the world around them and question how and why things work the way they do. Through Design and Technology, our children begin to think about what makes a successful product and how a product can be made or improved.

B. Aim

Our DT curriculum has been planned in accordance with the Early Years Framework and The National Curriculum allowing children to develop their skills and expertise during the time they are at Grange Infant School. The learning opportunities, technical vocabulary and skills progression for each year group will ensure progression and repetition in terms of embedding key learning, knowledge and skills.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage the free flow of child initiated learning promotes learning by play and exploration. Alongside this pupils are given rich and varied opportunities to improve their fine motor skills to enable them to be able to be competent in drawing, cutting and using simple tools. STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Maths) projects at an appropriate level are used for more focused Design Technology projects.

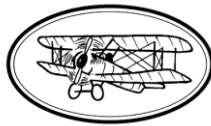
In Key Stage 1 Design and Technology tasks are linked to Key Stage 1 topics. In Year 1 pupils work independently at their project at the beginning of the year, and then more collaboratively at the end of the year. In Year 2 termly STEM projects are used as a means of delivering the DT curriculum. Through these pupils are given the opportunity to work collaboratively, learning to communicate and compromise as part of a team. They are allowed to make decisions, experience difficulties, and encouraged to persevere in finding a solution, building their resilience. Design Technology projects sometimes use the local environment for example visiting the local garden centre to research plant supports.

During Key Stage 1 each of the following areas are covered at least once - construction/structures, mechanisms (levers, wheels and axels), and textiles.

Food and nutrition is covered in Year R, 1 and 2. This focuses on making healthy choices, making decisions involving choice of ingredients used, and understanding where food comes from. Pupils are given experiences of growing (and tasting) food in all Year Groups.

Design Technology at Grange Infant School is taught in a way that is engaging and challenging to the children. The subject focuses on practical, hands on learning, and learning by experimentation. Pupils are taught the specific skills needed and are then able to apply these within the cycle of research, design, make and evaluate. Pupils learn to evaluate existing products as well as their own products. They are taught the vocabulary they need to enable them to do this.

The curriculum is enhanced by the provision of after school clubs – Cooking Club is always very popular!



Monitoring Pupils STEM projects are recorded in the Early Years. In Key Stage One pupils work can be seen in their topic booklets. Class teachers record the pupils who are working towards or at greater depth in each project.

Resources We have a well-stocked Art and DT cupboard which is checked and replenished as needed. The food technology area is located in the kitchen

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life. Our aim is to offer all our pupils Design and Technology curriculum that is relevant and differentiated, so that all our pupils may reach their full potential and grow in self-esteem. S.E.N.D Children with additional needs are included in whole class lessons and teachers provide scaffolding and relevant support as necessary. Teachers will differentiate their teaching and planning to meet the needs of groups and individuals.

Health and Safety

It is important to teach the safe use of tools and equipment and insist on good practice. The children are shown how to use all tools and equipment appropriately during continuous provision in the Early Years, and during DT lessons in Key Stage 1.

Activities and equipment that has a higher than usual risk will be planned for appropriately and supervised.

Tools are stored out of the reach of pupils in the black trolley in the Art/DT cupboard.

In Food and Nutrition pupils are taught the reasons for good hygiene when preparing food (hand washing, hair tied back, aprons worn). The cookery equipment is kept clean and stored in the designated cupboard in the kitchen area. The use of ovens and sharp knives will always be supervised. At least one member of the teaching team will have the appropriate food hygiene certificate.

Policy updated: June 2025

Review Date: October 2028