



Design and Technology

Intent, Implementation and Impact Statement

Intent

At Weare Academy, our Design and Technology (D&T) curriculum is designed to inspire creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving. Our intent is rooted in our school vision, enabling all children, regardless of background, ability or additional needs, to flourish and become the very best version of themselves. Through the teaching of Design and Technology, we aim to develop learners who are:

- **Aspirational**, encouraging pupils to explore and express their ideas through imaginative design and construction, making meaningful connections between their learning and real-life contexts.
- **Respectful**, recognising the contributions of diverse designers, engineers and cultures, broadening pupils' understanding of global innovation and design.
- **Curious**, inspiring pupils to ask questions, investigate materials, explore technologies and develop creative solutions to real-world problems.
- **Resilient**, developing perseverance and a growth mindset by encouraging pupils to evaluate, refine and improve their designs throughout the design process.
- **Kind**, creating an environment where pupils feel confident to experiment, take risks, collaborate and learn from mistakes in a supportive atmosphere.
- **Responsible**, designing and making products thoughtfully while considering function, purpose, sustainability and the needs of the user.

Implementation

To achieve our intent, we implement a rich and varied Design and Technology curriculum that adheres to the National Curriculum and reflects the values of our school community. Our inquiry-based approach includes:

Curriculum Design: Our Design and Technology curriculum is aligned with the National Curriculum and follows a carefully sequenced, spiral approach that enables pupils to revisit and build upon key knowledge, skills and vocabulary with increasing complexity each year. High-quality curriculum resources support teachers in delivering accurate, engaging and progressive lessons across all areas of Design and Technology.

Integration across the Curriculum: Design and Technology is meaningfully linked with subjects including science, history, geography and mathematics, allowing pupils to apply their knowledge across the curriculum through purposeful and engaging design challenges.

Progressive Skill Development: We have established clear progression pathways that enable pupils to develop their knowledge and practical skills from Early Years through to Key Stage 2. Each year group builds upon previous learning across four key areas: Textiles, Cooking and Nutrition, Mechanical and Electrical Systems, Structures. Pupils continually revisit, refine and apply prior learning, enabling them to tackle increasingly complex design challenges with confidence.

Assessment for Learning: Assessment is an integral part of our Design and Technology curriculum and is used to inform teaching and support pupils' progress. We use SOLO Taxonomy to help pupils understand their learning journey, assess the depth of their understanding and identify clear next steps. Through SOLO questioning, self-assessment and teacher feedback, pupils reflect on their design process, evaluate their products and develop increasingly sophisticated design, making and evaluation skills over time.

Hands-On Learning: We provide access to a wide range of materials, tools and technologies, enabling all pupils to engage meaningfully and practically with Design and Technology. Our classrooms provide a secure and supportive environment where pupils feel confident to express ideas, experiment and take risks. Collaborative projects encourage teamwork, communication and the sharing of ideas. Lessons provide regular opportunities for pupils to evaluate their own work and that of others, celebrate success and respond to feedback to improve their designs.

CPD for Staff: We invest in continuous professional development to enhance teachers' subject knowledge and pedagogy in Design and Technology. Subject monitoring, lesson observations and collaborative professional discussions ensure that teaching continues to develop and remains ambitious, engaging and consistent across the school.

Impact

The impact of our Design and Technology curriculum is evident through the knowledge, skills and attitudes pupils develop during their time at Weare Academy.

- **Pupil Engagement:** Pupils demonstrate enthusiasm and enjoyment in Design and Technology lessons, engaging confidently in practical learning experiences and embracing creative challenges.
- **Skill Development:** Pupils develop secure knowledge and practical skills across the areas of designing, making and evaluating. They confidently apply technical knowledge and increasingly sophisticated techniques appropriate to their age and stage of learning.
- **Creative Problem Solving:** Pupils think critically, generate innovative ideas and apply their learning to solve real-life design problems through planning, testing and refining their products.
- **Pupil Voice:** Pupils confidently discuss the design process using subject-specific vocabulary. They explain how they have researched, designed, made and evaluated products, demonstrating resilience by refining their ideas in response to testing and feedback.
- **Awareness of Sustainability:** Pupils develop an understanding of sustainability by making thoughtful choices about materials, resources and product design, considering both environmental impact and the needs of the user.
- **Preparation for Future Learning:** Pupils leave Weare Academy equipped with the creativity, technical knowledge and practical skills needed to succeed in the next stage of their education and in an increasingly technological world.

In Summary, our Design and Technology curriculum equips pupils with the creativity, technical knowledge and practical skills needed to solve real-world problems. Through designing, making and evaluating products, pupils become resilient, reflective and innovative learners who are well prepared for the next stage of their education and beyond.