

St Paul and St Timothy's Catholic Infant School

Our Vision for Design and Technology

At St Paul and St Timothy's, our vision is for every child to become a creative thinker, problem solver, and imaginative designer. We believe that Design and Technology (DT) is an essential subject that nurtures curiosity, resilience, and innovation. Through engaging, hands-on projects, our children learn how to design, make, and evaluate purposeful products that solve real problems. They are encouraged to be reflective, resourceful, and confident in selecting tools, materials, and techniques.

Intent

Our Design and Technology curriculum, based on the **Cornerstones Curriculum**, provides a clear, sequenced approach that helps children develop their design thinking, practical skills, and creativity.

Our intent is that children will:

- Develop confidence in generating, developing, and communicating ideas.
- Apply a wide range of practical skills to design and make functional, purposeful products.
- Understand how design and technology impacts the world around them, both past and present.
- Build resilience by testing, adapting, and improving their work.
- Make meaningful connections with other curriculum areas such as mathematics, science, art, and computing.
- Develop a strong understanding of key principles including **structures, mechanisms, textiles, and food technology**, in line with the Cornerstones progression model.
- Be inspired to become innovators and problem solvers, able to think both critically and creatively.

Implementation

Our DT curriculum is delivered through the structured sequence of the **Cornerstones Curriculum**, which ensures a progressive development of knowledge, skills, and understanding from EYFS through to Year 2. Each project focuses on one of the key areas: **structures, mechanisms, textiles, or cooking and nutrition**.

- DT is taught through cross-curricular, half-termly projects such as *Shade and Shelter*, *Taxi!*, *Chop, Slice and Mash*, and *Cut, Stitch and Join*.
- Each project follows the design process: **Design – Make – Evaluate**, with practical, hands-on experiences at the heart.
- Children are introduced to technical knowledge progressively, learning how to choose materials, use tools safely, and apply techniques like joining, strengthening, and finishing.

- All projects include opportunities for focused tasks that build specific skills, leading towards an independent final product in the Innovate stage.
- Cross-curricular links are embedded wherever possible—for example, designing structures links to science learning about materials, and food preparation links to understanding nutrition and healthy eating.
- Outdoor learning and real-world contexts are woven into our teaching, making the learning purposeful and relevant.

Impact

By the end of Key Stage 1, children at St Paul and St Timothy's will:

- Be able to confidently design, make, and evaluate products for a range of purposes, using age-appropriate tools and techniques.
- Demonstrate growing independence in selecting materials and solving design problems.
- Show an understanding of how products are created and improved, and reflect thoughtfully on their work and that of others.
- Use technical vocabulary confidently to describe processes, tools, and materials.
- Make links between DT and other subjects, developing transferable problem-solving and creative thinking skills.

We assess children's progress through:

- Ongoing formative assessment during lessons, including observation of practical work and evaluation discussions.
- End-of-unit reviews and pupil self-assessment against clear learning objectives.
- Monitoring processes including pupil voice, staff voice, and book scrutiny to ensure the quality and consistency of provision.

This assessment information is used to inform future planning and to adapt provision where needed, ensuring that all children are supported to achieve their potential in Design and Technology.