

Design and Technology at St Agnes CE Primary School

At St Agnes CE Primary School we provide an engaging and inspiring curriculum that promotes our core value of ‘love to learn’. Based upon the needs of our children, families and the community, our curriculum aims to equip pupils in acquiring the cultural capital needed to flourish in education and beyond. We achieve this through a knowledge based and skills led approach, rich in language and vocabulary, supported through enriching experiences which allows all of our children to ‘learn do well’. Pupils will leave St Agnes well prepared for the next stage of their education – enabling them to grow into active, responsible members of society ‘living well together’, in modern Britain.

Why we teach Design and Technology?

D&T gives children at St. Agnes the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of designing and making functional products, whilst applying skills and knowledge learnt in Maths and Science also.

At St. Agnes, we feel it is vital to nurture creativity and innovation through design, and by exploring the designed and made world in which we all live and work. The approach to Design and Technology at St. Agnes, is in line with the National Curriculum, however the objectives have been deconstructed further and are specific to each year group. This is to ensure that prior knowledge is built upon and new learning is unlocked. The curriculum devised for D&T ensures that our pupils develop lively enquiring minds that are capable of independent thought and that are able to acquire the knowledge and skills relevant to adult life and to participate as citizens in a rapidly changing world. It enhances children’s cultural capital and develops their knowledge by allowing for experiences to support the understanding of D&T in real life contexts.



Year One Children, working in pairs, making rain-coats following their designs.

What D&T looks like at St Agnes?

When D&T is taught within a topic, children follow the structure to produce a final product. This process is evident in children’s topic books, however photographs are also taken to evidence the children’s learning journey. Teachers record children’s attainment in each unit to track progress through the Key Stages.

When walking through our school, the teaching of D&T is apparent through the dedicated space for display.

‘DT Days’ have allowed for whole school, cross curricular displays to be produced that reflect the progression of learning within D&T. These days have also provided children and teachers with the opportunity to explore the subject within a different context.

Design and Technology at St. Agnes provides our children with the opportunity to design and make a product that can make a difference. It allows them to understand the world in which they live in and how products and technology have developed over time. At St. Agnes, in Design and Technology, we aim for our children to be able to weave their knowledge learnt in Maths, Science, Art and Computing to become logical, innovative, creative and practical learners. To be able to use their skills and knowledge to help design solutions to change people’s lives.

How we teach Design and Technology?

At St. Agnes, D&T lessons are planned to develop skills and knowledge in design, structures, mechanisms, electrical control and a range of materials, including food. To ensure coverage of these areas and D&T objectives, staff produce yearly curriculum overviews in line with their year groups topics. Design and Technology is taught in alternate half terms and the lessons follow the structure of; Design, Make and Evaluate. Some objectives are combined with Science, Computing, Maths and Art in a STEM approach. The school’s approach to D&T is to provide children with the skills and knowledge to master the subject, therefore all lessons are planned to be accessible by all children. This is achieved by supporting specific children by encouraging partnered or group work. The curriculum is reviewed termly and any concerns over coverage is discussed and managed using ‘DT Days’. These days provide a chance for cross curricular learning, in a whole school context.

Links:

D&T National Curriculum

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239041/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_Design_and_technology.pdf

STEM

<https://www.stem.org.uk/>

BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zykw2hv>

“Design is not just what it looks like. Design is how it works.”

Steve Jobs

“The Hanukkah DT Day helped with my confidence in D&T”

Mrs. Crowhurst 6C

“I love making things”

Ayman 1T