



Design and technology

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Scope of the Design and technology curriculum



National Curriculum Purpose of Study

- Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.
- They acquire a broad range of subject knowledge and draw on disciplines such as mathematics, science, engineering, computing and art. Pupils learn how to take risks, becoming resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable citizens.
- Through the evaluation of past and present design and technology, they develop a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world. High-quality design and technology education makes an essential contribution to the creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of the nation.





National Curriculum Aims

The national curriculum for design and technology aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world
- build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users
- critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others
- understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.





Key Stage 1, 2 and 3

Through a variety of creative and practical activities, pupils should be taught the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to engage in an iterative process of designing and making.

They should work in a range of contexts, for example:

- the home and school, gardens and playgrounds, the local community, industry and the wider environment KS1
- the home, school, leisure, culture, enterprise, industry and the wider environment KS2
- the home, health, leisure and culture, and industrial contexts for example, engineering, manufacturing, construction, food, energy, agriculture (including horticulture) and fashion – KS3





Key Stage 1

Pupils should be taught:

Design

- design purposeful, functional, appealing products for themselves and other users based on design criteria
- generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through talking, drawing, templates, mock-ups and, where appropriate, information and communication technology

Make

- select from and use a range of tools and equipment to perform practical tasks [for example, cutting, shaping, joining and finishing]
- select from and use a wide range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their characteristics





Key Stage 1

Pupils should be taught:

Evaluate

- explore and evaluate a range of existing products
- evaluate their ideas and products against design criteria

Technical knowledge

- build structures, exploring how they can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable
- explore and use mechanisms [for example, levers, sliders, wheels and axles], in their products.





Key Stage 2

Design

- use research and develop design criteria to inform the design of innovative, functional, appealing products that are fit for purpose, aimed at particular individuals or groups
- generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through discussion, annotated sketches, cross-sectional and exploded diagrams, prototypes, pattern pieces and computer-aided design





Key Stage 2

Make

- select from and use a wider range of tools and equipment to perform practical tasks [for example, cutting, shaping, joining and finishing], accurately
- select from and use a wider range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities





Key Stage 2

Evaluate

- investigate and analyse a range of existing products
- evaluate their ideas and products against their own design criteria and consider the views of others to improve their work
- understand how key events and individuals in design and technology have helped shape the world





Key Stage 2

Technical knowledge

- apply their understanding of how to strengthen, stiffen and reinforce more complex structures
- understand and use mechanical systems in their products [for example, gears, pulleys, cams, levers and linkages]
- understand and use electrical systems in their products [for example, series circuits incorporating switches, bulbs, buzzers and motors]
- apply their understanding of computing to program, monitor and control their products.





Key Stage 3

When designing and making, pupils should be taught to:

Design

- use research and exploration, such as the study of different cultures, to identify and understand user needs
- identify and solve their own design problems and understand how to reformulate problems given to them
- develop specifications to inform the design of innovative, functional, appealing products that respond to needs in a variety of situations
- use a variety of approaches [for example, biomimicry and user-centred design],to generate creative ideas and avoid stereotypical responses
- develop and communicate design ideas using annotated sketches, detailed plans, 3-D and mathematical modelling, oral and digital presentations and computer-based tools





Key Stage 3

When designing and making, pupils should be taught to: Make

- select from and use specialist tools, techniques, processes, equipment and machinery precisely, including computer-aided manufacture
- select from and use a wider, more complex range of materials, components and ingredients, taking into account their properties





Key Stage 3

Evaluate

- analyse the work of past and present professionals and others to develop and broaden their understanding
- investigate new and emerging technologies
- test, evaluate and refine their ideas and products against a specification, taking into account the views of intended users and other interested groups
- understand developments in design and technology, its impact on individuals, society and the environment, and the responsibilities of designers, engineers and technologists





Key Stage 3

Technical knowledge

- understand and use the properties of materials and the performance of structural elements to achieve functioning solutions
- understand how more advanced mechanical systems used in their products enable changes in movement and force
- understand how more advanced electrical and electronic systems can be powered and used in their products [for example, circuits with heat, light, sound and movement as inputs and outputs]
- apply computing and use electronics to embed intelligence in products that respond to inputs [for example, sensors], and control outputs [for example, actuators], using programmable components [for example, microcontrollers].





Cooking and Nutrition Curriculum

As part of their work with food, pupils should be taught how to cook and apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating. Instilling a love of cooking in pupils will also open a door to one of the great expressions of human creativity. Learning how to cook is a crucial life skill that enables pupils to feed themselves and others affordably and well, now and in later life.

Key stage 1

- use the basic principles of a healthy and varied diet to prepare dishes
- understand where food comes from

Key stage 2

- understand and apply the principles of a healthy and varied diet
- prepare and cook a variety of predominantly savoury dishes using a range of cooking techniques
- understand seasonality, and know where and how a variety of ingredients are grown, reared, caught and processed





Key stage 3

- understand and apply the principles of nutrition and health
- cook a repertoire of predominantly savoury dishes so that they are able to feed themselves and others a healthy and varied diet
- become competent in a range of cooking techniques [for example, selecting and preparing ingredients; using utensils and electrical equipment; applying heat in different ways; using awareness of taste, texture and smell to decide how to season dishes and combine ingredients; adapting and using their own recipes]
- understand the source, seasonality and characteristics of a broad range of ingredients.





Pupils should learn about a range of inventors, designers, engineers, chefs and manufacturers who have developed ground-breaking products

Consider what they are famous for designing and making and what characteristics enabled them to become successful

The range of people and products should cover the range of aspects of D&T

- mechanical systems
- electrical systems
- structures
- textiles
- food

Children may study the development of a product over time (e.g. electric torch); the product or products invented by a single person (e.g. Edison) or consider products that relate to a single aspect of D&T (e.g. textiles – Velcro)



Key Stage 1

• explore and evaluate a range of existing products

Key Stage 2

- investigate and analyse a range of existing products
- understand how key events and individuals in design and technology have helped shape the world





Key Stage 3

- analyse the work of past and present professionals and others to develop and broaden their understanding
- investigate new and emerging technologies
- understand developments in design and technology, its impact on individuals, society and the environment, and the responsibilities of designers, engineers and technologists



Tasks to enable to pupils to consider their chosen practitioner and develop their understanding so as to be able to express their own thoughts and opinions of the practitioner's work.





Early Years Foundation Stage

Communication and Language – vocabulary / discussions / articulate their ideas / books

Personal, Social and Emotional Development – select and use resources / resilience and perseverance / mange their own needs

Physical Development – fine motor skills / use one handed tools / choose the right resources

- Literacy drawing / writing / literature
- Mathematics 2D and 3D shapes / patterns / length / weight

Understanding the World – explore how things work / forces / senses / explore the natural world

Expressive Arts and Design – small world / blocks / construction kits / join materials / create collaboratively



EYFS

Preparing for DT in Key Stage 1

- Provide opportunities to work together to develop and realise creative ideas.
- Provide children with a range of materials for children to construct with.
- Encourage them to think about and discuss what they want to make.
- Discuss problems and how they might be solved as they arise. Reflect with children on how they have achieved their aims.
- Teach children different techniques for joining materials, such as how to use adhesive tape and different sorts of glue.
- Provide a range of materials and tools and teach children to use them with care and precision. Promote independence, taking care not to introduce too many new things at once.



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EYFS

- How effectively does the EYFS curriculum prepare children for their learning in key stage 1 and into key stage 2?
- How is the knowledge that children have learnt in the early years built on as they move through KS1 and KS2?
- How have you adapted the EYFS curriculum and teaching in the early years, to reflect your school's context and address any gaps that have been identified in key stage 1 and 2?
- How do you help children to sustain periods of concentration when making?
- How do you help them to handle tools and materials effectively?

The EYFS curriculum: what we want children to learn

- The curriculum is a top-level plan of everything the early years setting wants the children to learn.
- Planning to help every child to develop their language is vital.
- The curriculum needs to be ambitious. Careful sequencing will help children to build their learning over time.
- Young children's learning is often driven by their interests. Plans need to be flexible.
- Depth in early learning is much more important than covering lots of things in a superficial way.







Pedagogy: helping children to learn

- Children are powerful learners. Every child can make progress in their learning, with the right help.
- Effective pedagogy is a mix of different approaches. Children learn through play, by adults modelling, by observing each other, and through guided learning and direct teaching.
- Practitioners carefully organise enabling environments for high-quality play. Sometimes, they make time and space available for children to invent their own play. Sometimes, they join in to sensitively support and extend children's learning.
- Children in the early years also learn through group work, when practitioners guide their learning.
- Older children need more of this guided learning.
- A well-planned learning environment, indoors and outside, is an important aspect of pedagogy.





The characteristics of effective teaching and learning

In planning and guiding what children learn, practitioners must reflect on the different rates at which children are developing and adjust their practice appropriately. Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

• playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'

• active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements

• creating and thinking critically - children have and **develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things**





Expressive Arts and Design

This is the area of learning where DT – related aspects can really be explored. The area focuses on children's creative development and mentions the need for a wide-range of materials, tools and other resources. This provides opportunities for children's learning in DT to draw on the 'arts' when they are designing and making. It is equally important to be aware of the distinctive nature of DT so that children receive a genuine design and technological experience. For DT, the children and adult would be discussing different users, the purpose of their product and how it works. Children should be using a variety of materials and engage in imaginative role-play where they create and use indoor and outdoor environments based on the designed and made world.





How does your EYFS curriculum prepare children for DT in Key Stage 1?















'Something for somebody for some purpose'



What is design technology?

Which of the following is a D&T activity?

Design and make...

a model of a Viking longboat

a portrait of Queen Elizabeth the first

a coat to protect Teddy from the rain

a moving vehicle to carry an egg safely across uneven ground

a safe home for a pet animal of your choice

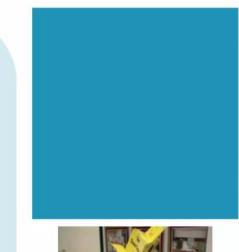
an Egyptian pyramid

a shelter for your playground to protect younger children from the sun

refreshing drinks for your class picnic

a volcano

Incy Wincy spider'









User – children should have a clear idea of who they are designing and making products for, considering their needs, wants, interests or preferences. The user could be themselves, an imaginary character, another person, client, consumer or a specific target audience.





Purpose – children should know what the products they design and make are for. Each product should perform a clearly defined task that can be evaluated in use.





Functionality – children should design and make products that function in some way to be successful. Products often combine aesthetic qualities with functional characteristics. In D&T, it is insufficient for children to design and make products which are purely aesthetic.





Design Decisions – when designing and making, children need opportunities to make informed decisions such as selecting materials, components and techniques and deciding what form the products will take, how they will work, what task they will perform and who they are for.





Disciplinary Knowledge

Innovation – when designing and making, children need some scope to be original with their thinking. Projects that encourage innovation lead to a range of design ideas and products being developed, characterised by engaging, open-ended starting points for children's learning.





Disciplinary Knowledge

Authenticity – children should design and make products that are believable, real and meaningful to themselves i.e. not replicas or reproductions or models which do not provide opportunities for children to make design decisions.





Curriculum

- There is no prescribed content teachers select the content
- Teachers must make strategic decisions about what knowledge and skills are most important
- Knowledge needs to be broken down into tangible components



Organisation and sequence

- The programmes of study state what should be taught in KS1, 2 and 3, but do not provide detail on how it should be taught.
- Building on current good practice, projects should can be based on three types of activity:
- **Investigative and Evaluative Activities** where pupils learn from a range of existing products and find out about DT in the wider world;
- **Focused Tasks** where they are taught specific technical knowledge, designing skills and making skills;
- **Design, Make and Evaluate Assignment** where pupils create functional products with users and purposes in mind.





Organisation and sequence

- Components are organised and sequenced to help pupils acquire knowledge and make meaning.
- **Broken down and isolates components** to help pupils practice before adding further components (novice to expert).
- **Sequenced** to activate **prior knowledge** and is **re-encountered** across the curriculum in different contexts.
- **Organised** so pupils can make connections (meaning making).





Focus on Cooking and Nutrition

Nutrition and healthy eating Seasonality Love of cooking Great expressions of human creativity Crucial life skill Feed themselves and others affordably and well

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Need to consider:

- prior learning including in other subjects e.g. healthy eating in PSHE
- key vocabulary
- cross curricular links

10. Investigative and Evaluative Activities (IEAs)

- Children use first hand and secondary sources to carry out relevant research into existing products to include
 personal/cultural preferences, ensuring a healthy diet, meeting dietary needs and the availability of locally
 sourced/seasonal/organic ingredients. This could include a visit to a local bakery, farm, farm shop or supermarket
 e.g. What ingredients are sourced locally/in the UK/from overseas? What are the key ingredients needed to make
 a particular product? How have ingredients been processed? What is the nutritional value of a product?
- Children carry out sensory evaluations of a variety of existing food products and ingredients relating to the project. The ingredients could include those that could be added to a basic recipe such as herbs, spices, vegetables or cheese. These could be locally sourced, seasonal, Fair Trade or organic. Present results in e.g. tables/graphs/charts and by using evaluative writing.
- Use a range of questions to support children's ability to evaluate food ingredients and products e.g. What ingredients help to make the product spicy/crisp/crunchy etc? *What is the impact of added ingredients/finishes/ shapes on the finished product?*
- Research key chefs and how they have promoted seasonality, local produce and healthy eating.

12. Focused Tasks (FTs)

- Demonstrate how to measure out, cut, shape and combine e.g. knead, beat, rub and mix ingredients.
- Demonstrate how to use appropriate utensils and equipment that the children may use safely and hygienically.
- Techniques could be practised following a basic recipe to prepare and cook a savoury food product.
- Ask questions about which ingredients could be changed or added in a basic recipe such as types of flour, seeds, garlic, vegetables. Consider texture, taste, appearance and smell.
- When using a basic dough recipe, explore making different shapes to change the appearance of the food product e.g. *Which shape is most appealing and why?*

14. Design, Make and Evaluate Assignment (DMEA)

- Develop a design brief and simple design specification with the children within a context that is authentic and meaningful. This can include design criteria relating to nutrition and healthy eating.
- Discuss the purpose of the products that the children will be designing, making and evaluating and who the products will be for.
- Ask children to generate a range of ideas encouraging innovative responses. Agree on design criteria that can be used to guide the development and evaluation of the children's product.
- Using annotated sketches, discussion and information and communication technology if appropriate, ask
 children to develop and communicate their ideas.
- Ask children to record the steps, equipment, utensils and ingredients for making the food product drawing on the knowledge, understanding and skills learnt through IEAs and FTs.
- Evaluate the work as it progresses and the final product against the intended purpose and user reflecting on the design specification previously agreed.

Food

his unit looks at national quality assurance standards for

4 - STANDARDS FOR FOOD

7 - HYDROPONICS – WORKING

vestigating alternative food production methods to nsure food production. Students investigate and discuss the benefits and drawbacks of using hydroponics systems

VATER

grow plant-based foods.



Key Stage 1

Key Stage 2

Key Stage 3





SEND

- Identification of the prior knowledge needed to understand new content ensuring readiness to learn new knowledge
- Carefully break down and chunk content utilise scaffolds and aids to help pupils achieve complex tasks
- Focus pupils' attention on the content they need to master
- Minimilise additional distractions or considerations
- Potentially give structured or direct prompts



SEND

Important points for planning inclusive design and technology lessons include:

- providing opportunities for learners to use all their senses
- •using a wide range of activities/materials
- helping pupils to manage their behaviour by setting out clear expectations and engaging them in practical work which ensures success
- •nurturing a sense of achievement
- •acknowledging and celebrating even tiny steps of progress.





Assessment

- Assessment should check that the curriculum content is remembered long term.
- It should build an understanding of pupils' prior knowledge and help to draw out common misconceptions or gaps which can be addressed in future curriculum plans.
- Timely, focused and precise feedback via questioning or examining pupils' outcomes





Assessment

Where issues arise they are about:

- Not focusing on the subject content in a meaningful way, consider the curriular goal or content that was taught and should have been learnt e.g. focusing on effort
- Not fit for purpose: does not identify what pupils know or gaps or misconceptions



Progression

Pupils need to learn the intended curriculum

To ensure they:

- have a secure knowledge
- are fluent
- are able to experiment
- can communicate authentic ideas

All pupils should be able to engage in process of invention, creation and experimentation



Health, safety and hygiene

The National Curriculum programmes of study **do not** include references to safety and hygiene.

- Schools should ensure that practice in the subject is healthy, safe and hygienic.
- Children should be taught to work safely, using tools, equipment, materials, components and techniques appropriate to the task.
- Risk assessments should be carried out prior to undertaking D&T projects. In food technology identify whether there are any children who are not permitted to taste or handle any food ingredients or products.

'Make it Safe! - Health and Safety guidance for the teaching of Design and Technology in primary schools' D&T Association

BS 4163:2021 Health and safety for design and technology in educational and similar establishments - code of practice (+A1:2022) British Standards Institution





Culture

- How is the subject enriched?
- How do you make design and technology relevant to pupils?
- Do you make links to the world of work and careers?
- How do teachers demonstrate their love for the subject
- Do you have high expectations?
- How is design and technology viewed in school?



Monitoring and evaluating

Things to think about:

- Work scrutiny evidences the impact of the curriculum on pupils' learning
- Lesson visits focus on implementation
- It indicates whether pupils are learning and remembering long term what intend pupils to learn and remember
- Long term memory change is what is being looked for in impact
- Discussion with pupils evidences impact on knowledge retention Knowing more and remembering more





Things to consider...

- How knowledgeable and confident are your staff?
- How do you plan CPD to meet their needs?
- Is your subject well-resourced?
- How do you utilise local industries, designers and makers?





Things to think about...

- How does your school ensure the design and technology curriculum is coherent, sequenced and builds on prior knowledge and skills?
- How does your school ensure the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and disadvantaged pupils?
- How does your school assess children's knowledge, skills and understanding of design and technology?
- How do teachers use assessment information to plan and adapt their teaching?
- How does your school ensure that the assessment of design and technology is accurate and reliable?
- How does your school ensure that teaching is of a high quality and meets the needs of all children?





Things to think about...

- What are the gaps in your design and technology curriculum?
- How do teachers address misconceptions?
- Can you show evidence in children's books of how the concept of design is taught over time?
- How is key design and technology vocabulary taught across the school?
- How is your design and technology curriculum organised?
- How is your design and technology curriculum assessed?
- How do you monitor the quality of design and technology across the curriculum?
- What would you like to improve in the design and technology curriculum?

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Resources

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to change

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DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY Association ASSOCIATION

Established in 1989 www.data.org.uk

About us

Design & technology is the future. Simple as that. That's why it needs to be prized, promoted and protected. Put right at the top of the education agenda, attracting the brightest young minds. As the wellspring of innovation, the health of the UK economy depends on design & technology. So, it's time for teachers, policymakers, and influencers to recognise how much design & technology matters. And to act on it. The Design & Technology Association is here to make sure this happens. To focus minds. challenge perceptions and raise the bar. To get future generations fired up about design, engineering and technology. To provide advice, support and training for teachers, helping them make the subject as exciting, appealing and accessible as possible to young people from

all backgrounds and walks of life. Because understanding how things are made and work is fundamental to new ideas and creative thinking. And these are the keys to improving the world around us.

Who do we support?

We support head teachers, D&T subject leaders and teachers at all levels and phases of

subjectassociations.org.uk



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 Curriculum Toolkit for all **Glossy magazines for** primary and secondary teachers - including 'Designing' magazine celebrating excellence in

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Because Design and Innovation Matter

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As one of our 33,000 UK and International members, we will provide you with access to services and products that will enable teachers to deliver excellent design and technology at every educational stage, giving young people the knowledge, skills, and personal attributes ad 'soft skills') mandad when out

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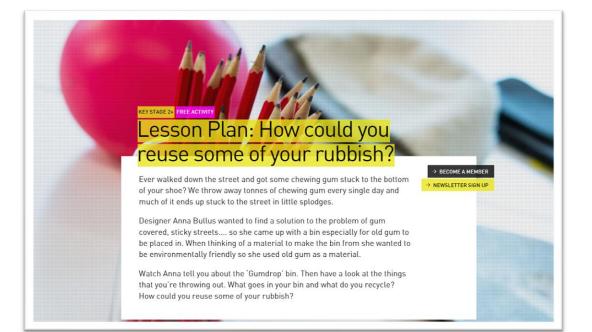
Projects on a Page

A national scheme of work for Design and Technology at Key Stages 1 and 2









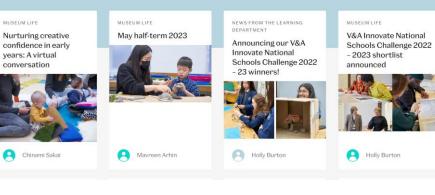


The Design Museum

https://designmuseum.org/the-design-museum-campus/schools-and-colleges

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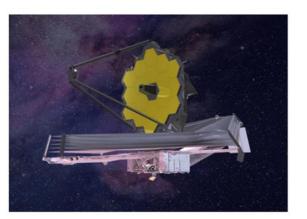




James Webb Space Telescope

A **STEM into Action** resource funded by the **UK Space Agency**

In the context of constructing an astronomical telescope and studying the James Webb Space Telescope, improve pupils' understanding of space history, technology and the uses of observational data



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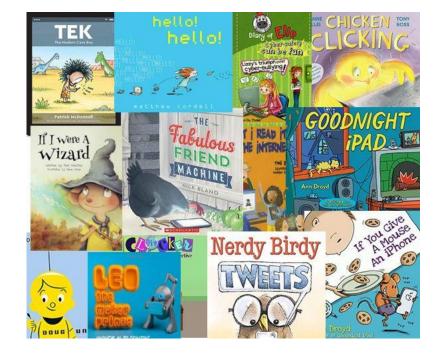




Architecture for Babies











What is it like on a day to day basis for pupils in your school?











