



St Lawrence C of E (Aided) Junior School Curriculum Statement

Design & Technology



Intent:

Why do we teach it? Why do we teach it in this way?

At St Lawrence, our Design and Technology (DT) curriculum enables our children to begin to develop an understanding of design and engineering they need in the world that they live in so that they can flourish and reach their potential. Our children are given every opportunity to build their knowledge and skills in DT to enable them to be successful citizens in our ever-changing world; they are encouraged to develop their abilities in all areas of the DT Curriculum to empower them in their future lives.

Our approach to DT is ambitious and progressive for all learners and aims to develop children's confidence in their own abilities and independence in their thinking, helping them become successful developing designers, eager to learn more and build a love for the subject. We aim to offer rich and vibrant opportunities within the DT curriculum which draw upon meaningful real-life experiences. In addition, through applying DT in all areas of our curriculum, children will understand the wide application of their design skills alongside the focus on our curriculum drivers, and what an important role this subject has to play in their overall learning journey.

The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in DT lessons. Our principal aim is to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding. DT provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences, and a special way of understanding and responding to the world. It enables children to communicate what they see, feel and think, through the design and manufacture of products, systems and recipes using different materials and processes. Children become involved in shaping their environments through DT activities. They learn to make informed judgements, and aesthetic and practical decisions. They explore ideas and meanings through the work of designers, technicians and engineers. Through learning about the roles and functions of designers, technicians and engineers, they can explore the impact DT has had on contemporary life and on:

- Different periods and cultures.
- The appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts enrich all our lives.

Implementation:

How do we teach it? What does this look like?

Our DT curriculum plan covers the national curriculum objectives thoroughly, ensuring that each year builds on previous experience so there is clear progression. Progress is also ensured through the continuous use and up levelling of the threshold concepts as the children progress through their year and the key stage.



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The Threshold Concepts in Art and Design are:

- **Developing ideas**

This concept involves understanding how ideas develop through a design process.

- **Mastering techniques**

This concept involves developing a skill set so that ideas may be communicated as envisaged.

- **Taking inspiration from the best**

This concept involves learning from both the design process and techniques of great designers, engineers and artisans throughout history.

DT is a foundation subject in the National Curriculum. At St Lawrence, we use the national scheme of work to support us with our curriculum planning in DT whilst linking the subject into areas that allow personal creativity and growth. While we give children of all abilities the opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding, we also plan progression into the scheme of work, so that there is an increasing challenge for the children as they move up through the school. The use of design is also enhanced in our school environment, through the use of our outdoor areas and termly changing display boards. We try to link the learning, skills and application of DT into a diversity of subjects through our creative curriculum. However, the application of skills within DT can be taught as standalone units.

Impact:

By the time children leave St Lawrence they will:

select and use relevant processes in order to create successful and finished work. They will feel safe enough to take creative risks, enjoying the journey. Children will become more confident in analysing their work and giving their opinion on their own and other manufactured products and through this their resilience and perseverance grows. All children in school will speak confidently about their DT work and their skills.

DT learning is loved by teachers and pupils across school. Teachers have high expectations. We believe it is important to assess during lessons to determine next steps with every individual and the class as a whole. Less confident children are given more opportunity to embed the skills and thinking, whilst the more gifted children are encouraged to think, imagine, create and apply their skills at a more complex level requiring justification and explanation if needed.

The impact of this will see the child take action independently to try and refine technical and craft skills to improve mastery of materials and techniques. They will follow intuition and instinct confidently during the making process, making intelligent and creative choices.