

Our Vision for Design Technology



At Holy Family, we want our children to develop a critical understanding of design and technology and its impact on daily life and the wider world. We aim to, wherever possible, link work to other disciplines, such as mathematics, science, engineering, computing and art. We want to ensure that all children have the opportunity to understand and apply their knowledge of food and nutrition and learn how to prepare food equipping them with basic lifelong skills for the future.

Essential characteristics of effective designers and technicians at Holy Family:

- To develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world.
- To 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.
- To critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others.
- To understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.

How we will deliver our curriculum:

In order to achieve these aims, Design and Technology will be taught as an individual subject and the themes of work will cover the key skills and National Curriculum Programmes of Study. Our long-term overview is designed so that children encounter a balanced 'diet' of the different areas of the Design and Technology curriculum as they progress through Holy Family complementing other areas of the curriculum where appropriate.

The basis for teaching Design and Technology will be focused on five main threshold concepts:

The five threshold concepts/areas in DT are:

- Textiles
- Mechanisms
- Structures
- Electrical Systems (Key Stage 2)
- Food and nutrition

All these concepts will follow the same path:

- Design work: planning and communicating ideas.
- Making: working with tools, materials and components.

- Evaluating work
- Technical knowledge: knowledge and understanding of materials and components

It is intended that all classes work within these areas in order to promote the continuous development of each aspect allowing children to acquire and develop skills and knowledge.

Design and Technology units are taught termly and alternate with the Holy Family's Art and Design programme. In some cases, units are 'blocked' to ensure projects are able to be seen through to a suitable conclusion.

