Springfield DT Policy

September 2026

Review Date: September 2027

Intention

At Springfield Primary School, we aim to provide a Design and Technology curriculum which enables children to develop their design, making and evaluative skills through purposeful and engaging projects. Design and Technology helps children to develop their creativity, problem-solving, collaboration and practical skills, while developing knowledge and understanding of materials, structures, mechanisms, textiles, electrical systems and food technology. Our curriculum is organised around a progression of practical DT projects, which allow children to apply their knowledge and skills to real-life contexts. Through these projects, children are encouraged to design, make, test and evaluate purposeful products, developing confidence and independence when using a range of tools, techniques and materials. Children are encouraged to be creative and innovative and to consider important issues such as sustainability, responsible use of materials, nutrition and enterprise. Our focus is on purposeful making, giving pupils opportunities to explore, experiment, solve problems and refine their designs.

Implementation

DT is taught in blocks across the school, with each year group completing a range of projects which progressively develop their knowledge and practical skills. Every year group completes a food technology project, alongside projects covering areas such as mechanisms, structures, textiles, electrical systems and construction. The projects are mapped progressively across the school to ensure that children revisit and build upon previously taught skills. Projects include opportunities such as fruit kebabs, sliders, sandwiches, sewing, wheels and axles, healthy biscuits, levers, moving toys, pizzas, gift boxes, electrical components, purses, omelettes, pulleys, gears and bird structures. Food technology is taught with a strong emphasis on healthy eating, nutrition, food hygiene and safety. Staff follow the school's food safety procedures and refer to Benedict's Law and current food allergen guidance, ensuring that known food allergies and intolerances are identified and appropriately managed before children take part in food preparation or tasting activities. Ingredients are checked carefully and appropriate measures are taken to prevent allergen exposure and cross-contamination. Knowledge organisers are provided for each area of learning to ensure that substantive, disciplinary and procedural knowledge is clearly identified and explicitly taught. Children are taught the correct use of tools, equipment, materials and subject-specific vocabulary, alongside safe working practices.

Cross-curricular links / LOTC

Links are made with other curriculum areas where appropriate, allowing children to apply their DT knowledge in meaningful contexts. DT projects may support learning in science, mathematics, English, computing, art and PSHE, as well as providing opportunities to develop communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills. Opportunities for children to apply their DT skills outside of the classroom are provided where appropriate, including through practical and real-life experiences.

Vocabulary

Key vocabulary is identified within the knowledge organisers for each year group and area of learning. Staff explicitly teach and revisit subject-specific vocabulary so that children can confidently talk about their designs, materials, tools, processes and evaluations. Vocabulary develops progressively as children move through the school, enabling them to increasingly explain how and why products work and how designs can be improved.

Inclusion & Accessibility

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils, including those with SEND, EAL and other additional needs, can access and succeed in Design and Technology.

Staff adapt projects, resources, tools and instructions where appropriate to remove barriers to participation while maintaining high expectations. Children are supported to develop independence with tools and equipment, with additional adult support, modelling, visual prompts and adapted resources provided where needed. We celebrate the strengths, creativity and individual contributions of every child, developing confidence, resilience, independence and a willingness to experiment and solve problems.

Impact

The DT curriculum is designed to inspire creativity while developing essential practical, technical and problem-solving skills. Through the progressive projects, children develop the knowledge and skills needed to design, make, test and evaluate a range of purposeful products. All pupils have regular opportunities to develop their understanding of nutrition, healthy eating, food preparation, food hygiene and allergen awareness, alongside learning fundamental cooking techniques and safe working practices. By the end of their time at Springfield, children will have experienced a broad range of DT disciplines, including mechanisms, structures, textiles, food technology and electrical systems. They will be able to select and use appropriate tools and materials, explain their design decisions, evaluate their products and identify ways to improve them. These experiences develop confidence, independence, creativity and valuable life skills, preparing children to apply their DT knowledge and skills in future learning and everyday life.