

Design & Technology Curriculum

Intent

At St. Austin's Catholic Primary School, we want our pupils to be inspired, interested in learning, and independent thinkers of the world. Our inclusive DT curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to be creative, compassionate, confident, collaborative, cultured, and valued members of our Catholic community. By developing knowledge, skills and understanding through a broad and balanced curriculum, our pupils will be prepared to become global citizens of the future.

Design and Technology provides pupils with a real-life context for learning. We aspire to open doors to future careers, inspiring pupils through engineering, product design, architecture and food technology. Through hands-on, practical learning, pupils develop technical knowledge, problem-solving skills, and resilience, fostering a sense of independence and curiosity.

At the heart of our curriculum are the Gospel Values, which underpin our mission statement:

"In our school where everyone is special, we will love and serve as Jesus taught."

We are passionate that our pupils will be ready for the challenges ahead and proud of who they are!

Implementation

Design and Technology is taught through a structured "Design, Make, Evaluate" cycle, where each stage is rooted in technical knowledge and vocabulary. Learning is carefully sequenced and progressive, building on prior knowledge from EYFS to Year 6.

In EYFS, pupils:

- Explore and use a variety of media and materials through both child-initiated and adult-led activities.
- Develop skills using simple tools and techniques appropriately and safely.
- Cook and prepare food, adhering to good health and hygiene routines.

In KS1, pupils:

- **Design** with real-life, relevant contexts to give meaning to learning.
- **Make** using a range of tools, materials, textiles, and ingredients.
- **Evaluate** their own work and existing products, using simple criteria.

In KS2, pupils:

- Design purposeful, functional products based on research and real-life needs.
- Make with a wide range of tools, materials, and components, including textiles, electrical systems, and construction kits.
- Evaluate their work by comparing to existing products, user needs, and design criteria.
- Understand how key individuals and events have influenced design & technology globally.

Enhancing DT Across the Curriculum

- Technical vocabulary is explicitly taught and revisited across year groups.
- Pupils engage with texts about engineers, designers, architects, and inventors, linking to whole-school literacy initiatives.
- Pupils develop computer-aided design (CAD) skills, digital prototyping, and Lego coding.
- DT projects incorporate STEM concepts, including electronics, mechanics, and digital modelling.
- Pupils explore international approaches to design, linking to Spanish & Mandarin lessons.
- DT projects introduce pupils to the contributions of designers, chefs, and engineers worldwide.
- Pupils apply eco-conscious design principles, exploring sustainable materials.
- Links to the Forest School program, school allotment, and beekeeping foster environmental awareness.
- DT plays a key role in STEM Week, Well-being Week, and Safer Internet Day.
- Food technology and nutrition link with science and PSHE, promoting healthy lifestyles.

Impact

Pupils at St. Austin's Catholic Primary leave with:

- Creativity, problem-solving, and innovation skills applicable to everyday life.



- A strong foundation in design, mechanics, textiles, and food technology.
- The ability to use technology and digital tools in modern design.
- An appreciation for global contributions to design & technology.
- Confidence in their ability to design, make, and evaluate real-world solutions.

Through a well-planned, engaging, and meaningful DT curriculum, pupils develop the creative, technical, and practical expertise needed for secondary school and beyond.