Design Technology

"Design creates culture. Culture shapes values. Values determine the future."
Robert L. Peters, designer and author

Intent

At St. Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, we intend to promote understanding, encourage creativity and inspire curiosity in the area of Design Technology. We believe that when children are given ownership in their learning, they are able to develop a greater understanding and interest in it. In our ever-increasingly technological world, we understand how important it is to provide children with the skills and techniques needed to equip them for the next stages in their lives. In allowing our children to explore their imagination in the setting of Design Technology, we are able to best prepare them for these opportunities and experiences.

Our Design Technology Curriculum is tailored to aid children in the development of a broad range of skills across the subject area, from exploration of materials in construction to creating electrical circuits to food technology. We aim to encourage children to become investigative learners through a carefully followed sequence of learning, from research through to designing, creating and finally evaluating their own pieces of work.

We strive to give all children the opportunity to reflect on their own designs, as well as celebrating the successes of their own and their peers' achievements and becoming evaluative learners through their own and other's feedback.

Implementation

Throughout their time at St. Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, children are given the opportunity to develop their skills and understanding in the areas of:

- Materials and textiles
- Mechanisms
- Electrical circuits
- Food Technology

Each year group completes three DT projects throughout the year, based on these areas. The projects are completed either in one whole day or throughout a half-term, so children are fully immersed in the design-create-evaluate process. The projects are carefully designed around the National Curriculum and are intended to build on previously acquired skills and to promote further interest and investigation in each of the areas.

The sequence of lessons for each unit clearly follow the structure of:

1. Research
2. Design
3. Create
4. Evaluate

Children are provided with plenty of opportunity to evaluate and give feedback on their own and their peers' work as they go through the creation process, in order to create a finished product that has been well thought out and evaluated. Evidence for each of the projects is recorded in the children's Curriculum books as well as pictures and videos taken for our website and shared areas.

In EYFS, the children are given their first opportunities to explore the world of design through each of the half-termly focuses. Children use a variety of media and materials through a combination of child-initiated and adult-directed activities. The main areas of the National Curriculum for Design Technology are introduced to the children and they are given plenty of opportunities to explore their creativity and acquire new skills that they will take into the subsequent year groups.

As children progress through the school and acquire more knowledge and skills in each of the areas, they are given a greater amount of control in their designs. In Year 6, children are able to showcase their own interests and skills in an 'Enterprise Project', in which they choose an area in which to research, design, create and demonstrate a project to their peers and the wider school community.

Impact

At St. Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, we believe that the impact of our Design Technology Curriculum will be felt through the enjoyment that the children gain in acquiring new skills and seeing their projects taking shape and growing in complexity throughout their time with us. Children will be able to use these skills and understanding in other areas of the curriculum and in opportunities outside of school, even into adulthood.

We will ensure that we continue to encourage our children to think about why the projects that they have undertaken in DT are so important in their own development and the impact that Design Technology will have on their future endeavours, particularly as the children reach the upper end of the school.

Regular discussions about the children's learning and their evaluations after each project provides evidence of the progress that each child makes in their Design Technology journey at St. Wilfrid's, from their initial exploration of materials in EYFS to taking on a self-led project based on their own interests in Year 6.