

Design Technology at George Street Primary School

Intent

At George Street we intend for our children to build their designing, making and evaluating skills and to continue to build their technical knowledge of materials, textiles, construction, mechanisms, food and electric systems progressively from the Early Years Foundation Stage to year 6.

We aim to provide a cumulative and broad DT curriculum that is entwined with outdoor learning opportunities, creating fully rounded and resilient individuals who are prepared for the future. We encourage collaborative working to develop team building skills through problem solving and building children's resilience particularly through the evaluation process. Using a diverse range of materials we provide new learning experiences for our pupils to develop key life skills. At George Street we ensure our pupils design purposeful products with opportunities to follow manufacture processes of designing, creating and then selling their own creations.

Implementation

The pupils at George Street develop a progression of skills throughout their years of learning. Within the Early Years Foundation Stage, the children are supported through careful scaffolding to build key scissor skills and are provided with a range of construction opportunities. As the children progress throughout the school their purposeful opportunities are extended to continue building their designing and making skills.

The materials and resources used by the children progress throughout the school. In the EYFS the children begin to mould and construct using playdough which develops into sculpting with clay during lower Key Stage Two. Children are initially encouraged to explore and experiment with a range of materials and construction within the EYFS. Whilst in Key Stage One, they design and construct purposeful and functional products using mechanisms such as pulleys and levers.

At George Street the DT topics and designs are purposefully linked to other curriculum areas, connecting meaningful learning opportunities. For instance linking war time food rationing within DT lessons alongside 'conflict through history' in Year 6. In upper Key Stage Two, the children participate in 'connect days' that build construction skills and allow the children to become 'problem solvers' by creating opportunities to allow these skills to build. As a whole school we have focus weeks throughout the school year, with one week dedicated design and technology across the school. The children usually design and make products throughout the week, following the key design and technology skills appropriate for their age. The children are then given the opportunity to showcase their creation at the end of the week to the wider school community.

Impact

Children will have built in confidence and value outcomes such as personal development through the process of planning, creating and building, and become skilled at evaluating both plans and outcomes so they use their analytical skills to know what has worked well and why, and how they might make changes to improve outcomes for future projects. These transferrable skills will be utilised across other disciplines and so have a far reaching impact on a child's life.

Children will have the knowledge and skills to solve age appropriate real and relevant problems. Their DT lessons will help engender creativity in both design and making.