

Brinscall St John's C.E./ Methodist Primary School



Primary Design and Technology (D&T) Policy

Date of policy: Summer 2023

Date approved by Governing Body:

Review date: Autumn Term 2026

Introduction

Brinscall St John's aims to stimulate each child with a sense of awe and wonder about God and about the world around them. This policy supports our school values of love, stewardship, faith, serving others, forgiveness and determination and develops the Living, Loving, Learning of our children in line with our school's mission statement 'Shining with the light of Jesus'. Teaching will reflect our values and where possible these will be explicitly mentioned within teaching, such as talking about our value of Stewardship when making shelters for animals. Our values are at the centre of the relationship our school seeks to sustain between itself, the home, the Church and the community.

This policy outlines the expectations of Design and Technology. It sets out a framework which teaching and non-teaching staff can operate and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment.

Intent

At Brinscall St John's, pupils develop their technical knowledge of different materials and processes whilst using their creativity and imagination to design, make and evaluate products within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. We encourage children to be problem solvers through the design and making process. It is our intention that we nurture every pupil to encourage a sense of enjoyment and curiosity for the products they seek to make which will continue into the future. In food technology, we nurture children's healthy minds and bodies.

Implementation

The National Curriculum is the basis for the content of our teaching and our school follows the D&T Association's Projects on a Page scheme of work which is aligned to this. The benefits of this scheme of work include more flexibility and less prescription, enabling greater choice by teachers and children in the products they design and make. Context-free project themes rather than prescribed thematic topics and products enables closer curricular-links to be formed and developed while enhancing the development of key skills, knowledge and understanding. We teach clear and appropriately sequenced skills and knowledge through progression. This ensures children's knowledge and skills are extended and broadened each year. We teach vocabulary which is specific to each unit. Maths provision is embedded through DT activities such as measuring, weighing and 2D and 3D shape work. At our school, we promote positive mental health by sharing ideas to help overcome problems and giving positive feedback to peers when evaluating each other's work. There are extra-curricular opportunities during the year which focus on developing DT skills.

EYFS

Structures and food technology are taught in EYFS in preparation for the National Curriculum. EYFS follow a topic led, needs led and interest led approach. Topic led is the pre-planned curriculum which makes links to topics covered each half term. Needs led is based on teachers observing children and setting up particular tasks for them to practise the skills that need improving such as using scissors. Interest led is when children are encouraged to follow their own interests during continuous provision to practise skills previously taught.

Impact

Our pupils are prepared to participate in tomorrow's rapidly changing technologies. Through design and technology, all pupils can make decisions about products and become innovators by developing a range of ideas, solving problems, developing their creativity and making products and systems.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

DfE (2022) 'Keeping children safe in education'

DfE (2013) 'National Curriculum: Design and technology programmes of study: key stages 1 and 2'

Roles and responsibilities

The D&T subject leader will be responsible for:

- Monitoring the progression of teaching and learning.
- Maintaining resources and advising staff on the use of materials.
- Supporting teaching staff, advising and offering to share their expertise and experience.
- Leading staff training on new initiatives.
- Helping staff to plan future lessons and assessments and advising teachers on teaching methods they may wish to explore.
- Encouraging staff and pupils to be creative.
- Reviewing this policy.

The headteacher will be responsible for:

- Leading the implementation of this policy.
- Monitoring the teaching and learning of pupils with the D&T Subject Leader.
- Keep the governing body informed about the changes to this policy.

Assessment, recording and reporting

- Children in Key Stages 1 and 2 will keep sketches, plan drawings, paper mock-ups, notes and evaluations in their D&T books.
- The design and technology subject leader will monitor D&T books for assessment purposes and for monitoring progression.
- Unit assessment trackers enable staff to identify which component parts children are under achieving on and target these components in their future teaching.
- Children are encouraged to make personal assessments of their own work through evaluating activities and identify what they need to do to improve.

Equal opportunities and SEND

We are an inclusive school that ensures all pupils are provided with equal learning opportunities, regardless of their characteristics or backgrounds. Teachers will adapt how they deliver the D&T curriculum based on the needs of pupils. In order to ensure pupils with SEND achieve to the best of their ability, teachers will adapt targets and the delivery of the curriculum for these pupils. Our school aims to maximise the use and benefits of D&T as one of many resources to enable all pupils to achieve their full potential.

Health and Safety

Design and technology in our school is an exciting practical subject in which pupils are actively encouraged to use tools and materials independently. Teachers need to be aware of the potential hazards and risks, and identify the risk control strategies that should be taken so that activities can be undertaken with safety and confidence. Copies of the school's D&T risk assessments are available for all to read and familiarise themselves with.