



Grove Vale Primary School

DT Policy February 2023

Approved by:

Date:

Last reviewed on:

Next review due
by:



Importance of DT at Grove Vale

“Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others’ needs, wants and values.” - Primary National Curriculum England 2014

“Pupils learn how to take risks, becoming resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable citizens. Through the evaluation of past and present design and technology, they develop a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world.” - Primary National Curriculum England 2014

At Grove Vale, we recognise the importance of DT as a subject that promotes children’s creativity, imagination, resilience, critical thinking and ability to reflect and evaluate purposefully. DT challenges children to use a combination of technical knowledge, practical exploration and methodical thinking to solve problems, all of which develop their confidence and sense of purpose.

Therefore, Design Technology is a practical and valuable subject at GV. It enables children to think critically about important issues and teaches children how to take risks and therefore become more resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable, both as individuals and as part of their wider communities.

DT Curriculum

At Grove Vale, DT is taught using ‘Plan Bee.’ This is a progressive programme of study which covers all aspects of the DT national curriculum. All children follow the process of ‘design, make, evaluate’ when focusing on specific products within their DT lessons, as well as developing their technical knowledge and learning about influential designers and their inventions. This allows children to develop their creative design and critical evaluation skills, within the context of real-world problems and individuals.

Our DT curriculum covers five different areas of Design Technology: electronics, construction, mechanisms, textiles and food & nutrition. Our curriculum is planned progressively so children experience each area at least once in every phase of their primary education (KS1, lower KS2, upper KS2) and their work around designing, making, evaluating and technical knowledge within this area becomes more challenging as the children move further up the school. DT is taught as part of the continuous provision in EYFS, where children get regular opportunities to design and make their own creations, develop fine motor skills when using a variety of different tools for different purposes, join materials in different ways and discuss the effectiveness and purpose of different items in simple terms.



An overview of the DT units taught in each year group (including the area of focus and final product) is shown below:

Design and Technology 2022 - 2023			
Year group	Autumn	Spring	Summer
1	Homes Area of DT- Construction Final product-Build own home	Flying kites Area of DT- Construction Final product- Kite	Teddy bears picnic Area of DT- Food and Nutrition Final product- Fruit kebabs and sandwiches
2	Fire engines Area of DT- Mechanisms Final product-Fire engine with wheels	Moving mini beasts Area of DT- Mechanisms Final product-Moving picture	Puppets Area of DT- Textiles Final product- Seaside puppet for a show
3	British Inventors Area of DT- Designers Final product-Own invention	Light up signs Area of DT- Electronics Final product-Decorative illuminated sign	Photo frames Area of DT- Construction Final product-Stable photo frame with a purpose
4	Seasonal stockings Area of DT- Textiles Final product-Xmas decoration	Story books Area of DT- Mechanisms Final product- Story book with a moving mechanism	Seasonal food Area of DT- Food and nutrition Final product-Bread
5	Fashion and textiles Area of DT- Textiles /Designers Final product-Bag or purse	Chinese inventions Area of DT- Mechanisms Final product-Prototype of a chinese invention	Building bridges Area of DT- Construction Final product-Create a prototype bridge for a purpose
6	Fairgrounds Area of DT- Mechanisms/Electronics Final product-Ride with a rotating/electrical part	African instruments Area of DT- Construction Final product- Percussion instrument	Great British dishes Area of DT- Food and nutrition Final product-Prepare a British dish

Curriculum Drivers

The DT provision at Grove Vale encourages our children to be curious, creative, ambitious and resilient.

Be curious - Children are curious in DT as they question how things work, how they are going to create their product and how to overcome any problems they may encounter in the design process.

Be creative - Children are creative in DT when they have the freedom to design and create their own structures, mechanisms, textiles and dishes as well as evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their own designs.

Be ambitious - Children think critically in DT and evaluate both the strengths and weaknesses of their own and others' products. Children push themselves out of their comfort zones and test the boundaries to ensure their products are purposeful and fit the design brief effectively.



Be resilient - Children are resilient in DT as they tackle new challenges when turning their designs into purposeful products. They continue to use and trial different methods to help them get to their desired outcome.

Evidence of Art at Grove Vale

Children's DT books evidence their high-quality work in DT throughout the year. Work will include a variety of appropriate research and information about their topic of focus, activities to develop technical knowledge, designs and design criteria, evidence of making proto types and final products and critical evaluation of these items.

The DT books move with the child to their next year group, showing the progression of their skills in DT over time. Each DT unit in DT books begins with a road map, which shows the key skills and subject knowledge children will gain during their lessons. Fast-forward and rewind documents for each year group in DT clearly show what subjects and skills children learnt in their previous year group and where their learning will be progressing to next year. This gives both children and teachers a clear overview of children's wider DT learning journey throughout their time at Grove Vale.

Subject-specific vocabulary is recorded on the DT progression of skills document and on vocabulary ladders displayed in classrooms. This means that children can use accurate, appropriate vocabulary to describe the purpose and process of designing their products.

Therefore, DT at Grove Vale is an opportunity for children to both practically and theoretically develop their technical knowledge and creatively explore how to solve problems. They apply their acquired understanding and skills to the process of designing, making and evaluating a range of unique and effective products that they can feel proud of.

