The aim of Design and Technology at High Clarence Academy is for pupils to use their creativity and imagination to design and make products that solve real life problems within a variety of contexts. They acquire a broad range of subject knowledge and use mathematics, science, computing and art skills.

Intent

EYFS

In Foundation Stage classes design and technology is an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. We follow the objectives set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged four to five. Expressive arts and design contributes to a child's personal and social development, and allows the child to express themselves in creative ways and develop their understanding further of other subjects.

KS1 and KS2

Our school uses the National Curriculum in England 2014 Framework for Design and Technology as the basis for its curriculum planning. We developed our plan using Kapow while there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each teaching unit, the planned progression built into the curriculum means that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school. Pupils return to the key strands again and again, each time the key strand is revisited it is covered with greater complexity. Upon returning to each key strand, prior knowledge is utilised so pupils can build upon previous foundations, rather than starting again.

Implementation

Children undertake a Design & Technology project across the year, but not necessarily as a weekly lesson. Sometimes a whole day, two days or up to a week are devoted to Design & Technology as part of a cross-curricula topic. The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in Design & Technology lessons. The principal aim is to develop children's knowledge, skills and understanding in this area. Teachers ensure that the children apply their knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning and making products and then evaluating them. We do this through a mixture of whole-class teaching and individual/group activities. Within lessons, we give children the opportunity both to work on their own and to collaborate with others, listening to other children's ideas and treating these with respect. Children critically evaluate existing products, their own work and that of others. They have the opportunity to use a wide range of materials and resources, including ICT.

Impact

Teachers assess children's work in Design Technology by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. At the end of the year, the teacher makes a summary judgement about the work of each pupil in relation to the skills they have developed in-line with the National Curriculum in England 2014 and these are reported to parents as part of the child's annual school report. We use this as the basis for assessing the progress of the child and we pass this information on to the next teacher at the end of the year.