



Pilsley C of E Primary  
School

Design and Technology  
Policy

May 2021

## Rationale and Ethos

At Pilsley C of E Primary School DT education is an embedded part of our broad and balanced curriculum. Pupils' creative and problem solving development is embedded in our school ethos. This policy reflects Pilsley C of E Primary School's overarching aims and objectives in supporting our children to consider the changing world around them.

Design and technology is a subject that gives the pupils an opportunity to work as a team, to take risks and develop resourceful problem solving skills. Through learning about cooking and nutrition, they are developing essential skills that are needed for a healthy lifestyle. Design and technology uses creativity and imagination, and allows the pupils to make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. They acquire a broad range of subject knowledge and draw on disciplines such as mathematics, science, engineering, computing and art. 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. High-quality design and technology education makes an essential contribution to the creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of the nation.

Design and Technology is planned through Cornerstones Maestro Curriculum and linked to the topic of that term.

## Roles and Responsibilities

The National Curriculum places a requirement on schools to ensure that all pupils develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world; build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users; critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others; understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.

## Legislation (Statutory Regulations and Guidance)

At Pilsley C of E Primary School, we aim to meet the needs and interests of all pupils, irrespective of age, gender, gender identity, sexuality, ethnicity, religion, disability or learning need. We also believe it is important to ensure that the Design and Technology curriculum meets the need of every pupil under the Equality Act of 2010. Teaching will take into account the age, ability, SEND, readiness, and cultural backgrounds of all children to ensure that all can fully access Design and Technology provision delivered to them through a spiral curriculum that will be delivered age appropriately.

## Curriculum Design

### Intent

The intent of our Design and Technology curriculum is to deliver a curriculum which is accessible to all and that will maximise the opportunities for each child's right to think imaginatively and actively solve problems within their learning. It aims to help them understand how their Design and Technology skills can develop over time, and to tackle problems through practise, patience and resilience. Through Design and Technology, the children are given the opportunity to take risks whilst exploring ideas.

Design and Technology helps our children to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that are key to understanding the need to keep their wellbeing balanced. Children are encouraged to develop a balanced approach to life and learning, working through problems together to eliminate barriers to learning. The Design and Technology curriculum at Pilsley enables the children to explore their own skills and appreciate differences that others will bring. We provide our children with opportunities for them to generate ideas through talking about, drawing and modelling their ideas. Through Design and Technology, we seek to inspire and celebrate high levels of self-belief and self-esteem, encouraging positive achievement in both academic and non-academic outcomes. Our curriculum seeks to promote the children's interest in exploring how they can express themselves imaginatively using a range of different media, whilst drawing on our nation's rich, cultural heritage. Our children are encouraged to develop their sense of self-worth by playing a positive role in contributing to school life and the wider community.

At the core of our Design and Technology curriculum is the NC programme of study, which is personalised for our pupils. We work alongside and ensure the staff and children have regular opportunities to use the rich resources created by the Chatsworth Estate. This underpins a unique understanding of our local heritage, alongside those provided by the Peak District National Park. This opportunity gives us a continuous access to a range of artists and designers of national importance, as well as local craftspeople and designers who have had a national impact. Progression is ensured by the teaching of specific skills that are practised in small steps throughout the school and built upon. Effective assessment of impact includes the appraisal of their own work and the work of others. This curriculum prepares our children for their future education and life beyond.

### Implementation

Design and Technology is taught in class groups in regular weekly or blocked sessions throughout the year, so that children can revisit and build on their learning. Design and Technology is interwoven through our termly class projects, whilst specific skills are taught. This structure allows children to develop a depth of understanding, as well as

enabling them to retain the knowledge through consolidation and progression. At Pilsley, we use the Cornerstones scheme of work, which is amended to include the work of designers and craftspeople within our local environment and of a national level.

The design process incorporates:

- ✚ Designing
- ✚ Making
- ✚ Evaluating
- ✚ Developing technical knowledge
- ✚ Cooking and Nutrition

Key designing skills include:

- ✚ Research
- ✚ Annotated sketches
- ✚ Discussion of ideas
- ✚ Making simple prototypes

Key making skills include:

- ✚ Selecting from a range of tools for cutting and joining
- ✚ Selecting from a range of construction materials, textiles and ingredients
- ✚ Using the tools and materials safely and effectively

Key evaluating skills include:

- ✚ Investigating existing products
- ✚ Evaluating against their own design ideas
- ✚ Understanding how key designs have shaped our world

Technical knowledge includes:

- ✚ Making structures that are strengthened and reinforced,
- ✚ Understanding and using mechanical systems
- ✚ Understanding and using electrical systems
- ✚ Integrate computing to program and control their systems

Cooking and nutrition skills include:

- ✚ Understanding the basic principles of a varied and healthy diet
- ✚ Preparing and cooking predominantly savoury dishes
- ✚ Understanding where food comes from, seasonality and how it is reared and grown

The children regularly see and explore the work, and find out about the lives of established artists, architects, designers and craftspeople. They use the techniques, methods and materials listed above to interpret this work.

The techniques and methods are taught over a two-year cycle, whilst the children have continuous access to the range of materials. The subject lead and class teachers work together to identify the key knowledge and skills of each technique, enabling progression in Design and Technology skills whilst ensuring a cross-curricular approach through their topic work. The content of each technique is considered in the long-term planning. At the beginning of each taught technique, children are able to convey what they know already as well as what they would like to find out. This informs the programme of study and also ensures that lessons are personalised and take account of children's different starting points. Consideration is given to the accommodation of our greater depth learners as well as to the support pupils may need to access the programme of study. Our local area is utilised fully to achieve personalised outcomes, with opportunities for outside learning embedded in practice.

Design and Technology is taught discreetly across the school. There are also opportunities to link DT objectives to our class projects throughout the year. DT is embedded in school life at Pilsley C of E Primary School. Our school PRAISE vision is fully implemented through daily acts of worship as well as being brought into our class learning and life around school continually. These key values are:

- Perseverance
- Respect
- Achievement
- Independence
- Service
- Enthusiasm

Due to our provision of Design and Technology, along with our broad and balanced curriculum, there are overlaps with other subjects, for example Art, Science, Maths and Literacy. Therefore, flexibility in the timetable needs to be accounted for as objectives for Design and Technology education will be met outside of the allocated timetable slot.

Flexibility in the timetable is also important to allow us to respond to school level, local, national or global events that may occur, responding in an age appropriate way.

Impact

Whilst teachers aim to keep a photo-log of classwork produced, sketchbooks are used as a personal reflection of each child's work. At the end of each class project, the children spend time evaluating their work, comparative to their starting points. This may be done orally, and allows class teachers to assess any need for revisiting learning for individual children and ensures sticky knowledge. Assessment for Learning is embedded in practice, with both staff and children continually reflecting on their learning, allowing for support and extension in both knowledge and skills. In every area of school life our pupils are given very high expectations about the presentation of their work.

The children are encouraged to present their work with creativity and imagination in each of the curriculum areas.

### Teaching Responsibility and Staff Training

Design and Technology has a designated Co-ordinator and Link Governor that will regularly monitor the subject and attend CPD. The Design and Technology Coordinator will ensure there is appropriate and regular INSET for all teaching staff and TAs. When using external speakers to deliver aspects of our Design and Technology programme we will ensure that the School Visitors and Volunteers' Policy is adhered to.

### Safe and Effective Practice

Each class will start a Design and Technology lesson with any additional health and safety requirements to ensure safe practice. Particular attention will be paid to the safe practice of tools.

### Safeguarding

At Pilsley C of E Primary School we understand that by nature certain subjects may carry an increased risk of pupil disclosure, in cases where there is a safeguarding risk, school safeguarding policy in relation to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018 will be followed. All external contributors will be informed of our safeguarding policy prior to working with the children. We also recognise there may be disclosures that aren't safeguarding issues, but opportunities to support the child. If this occurs staff may refer to or suggest appropriate local or national support services or information for pupils and/or their families. If a question raises potential safeguarding concerns, staff should respond in a way that will allow them time to seek advice from the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead by replying with for instance: 'That is a really interesting question and I need time to think because I want to give you a proper answer.'

### Engaging stakeholders

This will be communicated with parents and carers through Pilsley C of E Primary School's school website. As a school we feel it is important to keep parents informed about what we will be discussing so that they can support their child's learning and answer any questions they may have at home. Outside visitors are used to enhance the curriculum of Design and Technology overall. Visitors are required to follow the ethos of this policy in line with Pilsley C of E Primary School's School Visitors and Volunteers Policy.

#### DT Policy review date

This policy will be reviewed in May 2022 by the Design and Technology Coordinator. This will ensure that the policy continues to meet the needs of pupils, staff and parents and that it is in line with current Design and Technology for Education advice and guidance.