NEWLANDS JUNIOR SCHOOL

Newlands Junior School
We are Proud

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY POLICY
September 2025

The National Curriculum Definition

"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. 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 Technology at Newlands Junior School

Our principle aim is to develop children's knowledge, skills and understanding within the processes of planning, developing, making and evaluating within the field of Design Technology. Design and Technology prepares children to take part in the development of tomorrow's rapidly changing world. Creative thinking encourages children to make positive changes to their quality of life. The subject encourages children to think about how a range of different solutions may work in order to solve a common goal. The subject encourages children to become autonomous and creative problem solvers both as individuals and part of a team. Design Technology enables them to identify needs and opportunities and to respond by developing ideas and thoughts to eventually make products, systems and processes. Through the study of design and technology pupils combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetic, social and environmental issues, as well as functions and industrial practices. This allows them to reflect on and evaluate present and past design and technology, its uses and its impacts. Design and Technology helps all children to become discriminative, informed consumers and potential innovators for the potential problems of tomorrow. To ensure we achieve our aims, we endeavour to make sure the planned activities which our children undertake are challenging, relevant, and enjoyable.

Adaptive Teaching

At Newlands Junior School we recognise that all pupils learn in different ways and at different paces. In Design and Technology (D&T), adaptive teaching ensures that every pupil can access learning, make progress, and develop creativity, technical skills and problem-solving abilities.

Teachers plan D&T lessons with flexibility so that tasks, resources and outcomes can be adjusted to meet the needs of all learners. This includes:

- **Scaffolding and Support** – providing structured guidance, visual prompts, word banks, step-by-step demonstrations, or adapted equipment to help pupils gain independence over time.
- **Challenge and Extension** – offering open-ended design tasks, opportunities for independent research, and higher-level questioning to extend pupils who demonstrate advanced skills or understanding.
- **Practical Adjustments** – ensuring resources, tools and materials are accessible to all pupils, including those with additional physical, sensory or learning needs.

- **Flexible Grouping** – using a mix of paired, group and independent work to support collaboration, peer learning and the sharing of ideas.
- **Assessment for Learning** – using questioning, observation and feedback to identify barriers and adapt teaching strategies within lessons.

Through adaptive teaching, pupils are supported to take risks, experiment with ideas and develop resilience, ensuring that every learner is able to engage meaningfully with the Design and Technology curriculum.

National Curriculum teaching aims

The national curriculum for design and technology aims 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.

Our Design Technology Objectives at Newlands Junior School

- To provide a range of stimulating and creative opportunities which create a framework for success and enjoyment thus enhancing self-esteem and wellbeing within all our pupils.
- To develop children's knowledge, skills and understanding of design technology throughout the whole breadth of the curriculum
- To ensure that children apply their knowledge and understanding when developing their ideas, planning and making products when prompted with a potential problem/scenario which is then to be evaluated by themselves and their peers.
- To confidently and comfortably use a wide range of material and resources, including ICT whilst determining which would be the most suitable for a given task.
- To critically evaluate existing products, their own learning and that of others, both individually and in groups whilst offering solutions to possible future difficulties or complications.
- To promote respect and responsibility whilst developing children's character, integrity and cooperation when studying a range of people from different cultures.
- To develop children's understanding of values, mutual respect and tolerance within an inclusive manner.
- To ensure activities are differentiated across the whole school enabling children to work towards the national curriculum standard and access learning appropriate to their needs and abilities.

- Develop an understanding of the work of engineers, chefs and designers and apply this knowledge to their own learning whilst providing the opportunity for studying historical, cultural and religious mechanisms and structures.

Health and Safety

Pupils will be taught to use materials, tools and equipment safely. The use of tools and equipment will be closely supervised by teachers and sharp tools will be introduced appropriately as pupil's progress through the skills progression in respect to each year group.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Pupils will be encouraged to reflect upon their work as individuals, in class groups and through self-assessment as appropriate. Teachers will use formative assessment strategies and will record this upon the skills progression document. This will then be used by each class teacher as a whole class guide as to whether a specific skill has been achieved as a class. At the end of each year teachers will make summative assessments of the attainment and progress made by pupils against the National Curriculum and use these to report to parents/carers.

The Role of the Subject Leader

- Ensuring progression of skills is covered in each year group.
- Monitor planning, outcomes and delivery of lessons.
- Review the needs of design and technology.
- Support teachers in delivery of lessons and promote high standards.
- Ensure full list of equipment and resources is available.
- Ensure good Health and Safety practices are followed.
- Follow up objectives on yearly action plan.

We will ensure that the whole school community is aware of the Design Technology Policy and our published information and Design technology objectives by publishing them on our school website.

Monitor and Review

We will constantly review our objectives in relation to any changes in our school profile. Our objectives will sit in our overall school improvement plan and therefore will be reviewed as part of this process.