

**Developing Cultural Capital through Design Technology**

“It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

It follows that, as teachers, we need to ensure that along with teaching the content of the curriculum, we are enabling children to function as well-informed individuals well after they leave school. It is a huge job, but without the guidance of their teachers, some young people have very little cultural and social input from elsewhere. They could, therefore, miss opportunities that other young people are able to access, which could lead them to make decisions that are less informed than they could be.

Now more than ever, the job of the classroom teacher is of such high importance with regard to filling the gaps that students have. To this end at Newlands Junior School we have planned a curriculum to provide our pupils with an ambitious range of knowledge and opportunities which will open doors and give them confidence in wider society.

**Opportunities to develop cultural capital through design technology teaching involves:**

Curriculum

The Design Technology (DT) curriculum has been planned to ensure that children are made aware of a wider range of disciplines, resources and areas within DT which they may otherwise never have the opportunity to explore. Each year group has a clear and comprehensive overview of skills, vocabulary and knowledge for them to follow which links with each of the topics within each year group.

School values

We encourage children to learn in many different ways whether this be independently, with a partner or in groups, enabling children the opportunity to develop our core school values of respect, friendship innovation and questioning at every opportunity. These core values are embedded within the planning and delivery of DT lessons allowing children a better opportunity to become well-rounded, considerate members of society.

Wider school experiences

We try and allow our children to become emerged within their DT learning by providing them with opportunities to discover a broader variety of learning with a DT focus whether this be analysing the design and structure of the local mining headstocks at Clipstone or working collaboratively in order to achieve a common design purpose or goal. Providing this opportunity to our children allows them to view the wider world and see for themselves the impact that dedication and resilience can have upon becoming a successful learner within DT. We also endeavour to improve and widen the range of vocabulary within DT which broadens the acquisition of knowledge and further instils a sense of pride and responsibility within their learning.

Wider use of DT

We allow children to express themselves creatively through the use of DT to show their feelings and communicate their thoughts whether they are positive or critiques. We also provide children with a wide range of resources and tools, which they may be unfamiliar with, in order for them to best showcase their learning whilst developing their confidence when using unfamiliar materials and/or techniques.