

# Design Technology



**POLICY**

**Swansfield Park**  
Primary School

## The National Curriculum states that:

“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.”

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## Intent

At Swansfield Park Primary school it is our intent for Design and Technology (DT) to offer all children an ambitious, creative and engaging curriculum. We teach the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to engage in a process of designing, making and evaluating. Our topic based approach allows for cross curricular links to be made and ensures that



children are able to draw on their subject knowledge and apply skills learnt through a mastery approach. The children are also given opportunities to reflect, evaluate and then improve their work and are encouraged to become innovative risk takers and independent learners ready for life beyond the classroom.

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## Aims

In line with the aims of the National Curriculum for DT, at Swansfield Park Primary School, we aim to ensure that we:

- Encourage the natural abilities that every child possesses in this curriculum area
- Enable children to become proficient in designing, making and evaluating
- Encourage children to design products that solve real life problems
- Enable children to express their ideas, feelings, thoughts and experiences in a visual form and promote enjoyment in all design activities
- Help children communicate confidently and develop aesthetic judgements applied to their own work, to the work of peers and to the world around them
- Help children to develop skills and knowledge of materials, tools and techniques, so that ideas can be generated, undertaken and completed with success
- Promote and encourage increasingly expressive language and DT specific vocabulary in response to their own work and that of others in an evaluative and analytical way
- Where appropriate, use technology to create, develop and record their work
- Provide our children with opportunities to learn about the work of others and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms
- Provide opportunity for our children to take safe risks in order to become capable citizens
- Help our children to develop their understanding and importance of nutrition
- Provide our children with opportunities to learn cooking skills and techniques.



## Planning

At Swansfield Park Primary School, we believe that children learn best when the curriculum is stimulating and challenging, ensuring progress in the long, medium and short term. It is also important that design and technology promotes fluidity through children's own abilities to design, create, experiment, analyse, evaluate and develop or change ideas, to encourage confidence, initiative and self-led learning.

When planning at Swansfield Park Primary school, staff use the skills progression documents within each key stage to inform both long term and medium term planning. This ensures that the correct progression of skills is covered.

### Long-term planning

At Swansfield Park Primary School we believe that design and technology should be planned in conjunction with our topic theme for the term or half term. This ensures that learning links are made and that children make connections across the curriculum. Our long-term planning aims to balance the teaching and learning of DT with that of art. Work undertaken within the Foundation Stage is guided by the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and the recommendations set out in the Early Years 'Development Matters' document. A set planning pro forma is used by all staff when completing long term planning.

### Medium-term planning

Medium-term planning is carried out on a half-termly or termly basis. Teachers and those Higher Level Teaching Assistants who teach DT work in teams to identify and select objectives which ensure coverage of curriculum links. Online schemes are often referred to across Key Stage 1 and 2 for objectives where the learning ties in with our key stage topic. Within Early Years, the Development Matters document is used as guidance to plan for learning within the Specific Areas of Physical Development and Expressive Art and Design. Across all key stages, DT is sometimes planned to enhance or support cross curricular learning. This may take the form of outdoor learning/subject mastery activities. In their teams, teachers are responsible for generating medium term planning overviews using the school's set pro forma and ensuring that these are made available on the school website.

Family learning projects are planned for regularly, encouraging children to use their creativity in presenting work in unique ways. These projects allow time for families to share creativity and learn new skills together.



## Short-term planning

Short-term planning is carried out on a weekly basis. Individual teachers and Higher Level Teaching Assistants are responsible for the planning of thoughtful and stimulating weekly lessons for their classes. The school does not have a set pro forma for short term planning but for DT, a flexible ‘work in progress’ approach is important when planning to allow for the rethinking and reshaping of children’s creative practice to grow and develop before final pieces are produced.

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## Teaching and learning

The DT curriculum at Swansfield Park allows children to learn and develop new skills and techniques, be creative thinkers, make products that solve real problems and learn how to be resourceful, innovative and capable citizens as defined in the National Curriculum. Our teaching enables children to have opportunities to:

- Generate their ideas based on real problems and products they observe, explore, investigate and analyse
- Experiment with and apply their knowledge by selecting appropriate tools for their designs
- Modify their work in light of its development and their original intentions
- Relate design and technology to other areas of the curriculum
- Design and present work for display

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## Teaching Styles

At Swansfield Park Primary School, we provide a mixture of practical work and theory within DT. We adapt the style to fit with what we are teaching:

- Children have the chance to work individually and collaboratively
- Children have the opportunity to look at (explore, investigate, observe, analyse) real products and talk about them with others
- Children have the opportunity to develop their design ideas and then talking with others
- Children are provided with a variety of materials, tools and resources for practical work
- Children are provided with activities which develop their experience of tools, techniques and language



- Children are taught to use tools safely and to organise and care for materials and equipment
- Children are encouraged to plan and revise their work, questioning, comparing and explaining ideas

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## Assessment

Assessment is regarded as an integral part of the teaching and learning process within Key Stages 1 and 2 at Swansfield Park Primary School. The key sources of assessment in DT are:

- Use of Assessment for Learning, which includes observations, discussion and questioning of the children during their participation in DT lessons
- Children set their own criteria and evaluate their own work and the work of others
- Informal annotations on planning
- Discussions with individual/groups of children
- The use of online schemes of work are referred to across key Stage 1 and 2
- DT subject assessment grids are completed (by teaching staff) at the end of a topic and at the end of the year to inform which children need extra support with specific skills

In the Early Years, all members of staff are responsible for observing children as they interact in both child initiated and planned activities, making sure that each child is regularly assessed against the EYFS curriculum for Physical Development and Expressive Art and Design. Progress towards early learning goals in these Specific Areas of the curriculum is documented in work books and through observations and photographs recorded on the EYFS 360 app. Where appropriate, staff also use the development matters statements to identify possible areas in which to challenge and extend a child's current learning and development.

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## Marking (Responding to work)

At Swansfield Park Primary School, we believe that children should be actively encouraged to participate in the marking process (in an age appropriate way), either through self and peer assessment opportunities, or through responding to teacher's feedback. This may be an immediate action in response to a teacher's oral feedback during the lesson or a written response to their



ongoing project. Feedback and questioning will ensure a child is challenging themselves to think more deeply about the creative or skills process and move the child on in their learning.

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## Resources

Classes which have available storage, have a small range of equipment in their cupboards, but most DT resources are stored in a clearly labelled central cupboard. All cooking equipment is stored safely in the room where the children take part in the cooking process. Again, equipment is labelled clearly. Resources are audited, checked and updated annually. Areas of need are monitored, and equipment purchased in line with need using the school's subject bidding process. On occasion, resource requests are sent out to families for reusable and recyclable materials and some businesses occasionally offer materials.

Examples of materials/tools kept in the central cupboard:

- Wooden wheels
- Match sticks
- Binka
- Hessian
- Plastic
- Cardboard
- Straws
- Wadding
- Hole punches
- Clamps
- Hack saws

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## Food safety and hygiene

Only staff with food hygiene certificates are able to lead cooking lessons. Staff without certificates are only able to support the children in their design and evaluation stage.



## Continuing Professional Development

Staff are encouraged to attend external training courses or development days advertised through the online E-Courier. Where teaching staff begin to teach DT as an individual subject Higher Level Teaching Assistants who usually teach the majority of this subject, work together with teaching staff to share resources, planning and ideas from their previous teaching of topic related design and technology. We also involve staff with policy and decision making.

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## Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring of the development of children's skills, quality of teaching and curriculum coverage is the responsibility of the DT subject leader. It involves work scrutiny, learning walks and discussion with both children and teaching staff. It is the responsibility of the DT subject leader to produce an annual action plan in order to effectively plan, monitor and evaluate the development of the subject across the school.



This policy has been formally adopted by the governing body.

**VERSION HISTORY**

VERSION	DATE	DESCRIPTION
Initially adopted	June 2020	Adapted into Swansfield Park Primary School
Review	April 2021	Annabel Freeman
This Review	November 2021	Updates



Headteachers:  
**Mrs J E Smith**  
 BSc PGCE,  
**Mrs A-M Grimes**  
 BA(Hons) PGCE



**APPROVAL AND AUTHORISATION**

	NAME	JOB TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE
Approved	<b>Jenny Smith</b>	Head Teacher	<i>J E Smith</i>	November 2021
Approved	<b>Angela Jefferies</b>	Chair of Governors	<i>A Jefferies</i>	November 2021
	<b>DATE OF NEXT REVIEW</b>		<b>Autumn 2024</b>	

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