St George's CE Primary School

Art and Design and Design Technology Curriculum Statement

Vision and Ethos

At St George's CE Primary School, our vision—"Living life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)—underpins everything we do. Rooted in our Christian values of compassion, love, truthfulness, thankfulness, forgiveness and hope, our Art and Design and Design Technology curriculum empowers children to develop curiosity, resilience and confidence as they learn to create, innovate and apply practical and artistic skills to real-world contexts.

Intent

At St George's, our bespoke Art and Design and Design Technology curriculum has been carefully crafted to meet the needs of our children, offering a progressive scheme of work that ensures pupils build securely on strong foundations as they move through the school. Rooted in the aims of the National Curriculum, our approach develops children's creativity, technical understanding and artistic expression, enabling them to design, make and evaluate with increasing skill and independence.

Our curriculum empowers children to develop curiosity, resilience and confidence as they learn to create, innovate and apply practical, artistic and design skills to real-world contexts. All Art units are inspired by the work of a wide range of artists, giving children the opportunity to study diverse styles, cultures and techniques that broaden their creative understanding. Through rich opportunities to explore materials, processes and ideas, pupils grow as imaginative thinkers, reflective creators and capable problem-solvers who can communicate their ideas effectively and appreciate the value of art, design and technology in the wider world.

Implementation

We deliver an ambitious, creativity-rich Art and Design and Design Technology curriculum through:

Art and Design

- All children use knowledge-rich Knowledge Organisers for each unit, supporting them to recall prior learning, understand key art skills and vocabulary, and make secure links between previous and current knowledge.
- Children research a range of artists and craftspeople to understand different styles, contexts and influences before experimenting with key skills and techniques using a specific artistic tool or medium.
- Children design and create a final piece of artwork, applying the skills they have developed, and then evaluate their work thoughtfully to identify strengths, areas for improvement and next steps.

Design Technology

- All children use knowledge-rich Knowledge Organisers for each Design Technology unit, enabling them to revisit prior learning, understand key DT skills, vocabulary and processes and make meaningful links across projects.
- Children research existing products and design ideas, exploring how materials, structures and mechanisms work before planning, making and refining their own designs.

- Children create a functional, purposeful product, applying the skills they have developed, and then evaluate its effectiveness, identifying strengths, improvements and next steps for future projects.

Assessment for Learning

Curriculum enrichment and EYFS foundation

In EYFS, children develop early creative and practical skills through purposeful, play-based provision, with opportunities to explore materials, tools, colour, texture, construction and simple design processes.

Indoor and outdoor environments provide rich opportunities for artistic exploration and hands-on making, enabling children to experiment, express ideas and solve creative and practical challenges.

Creative talk and design discussion are key features of practice across all year groups, supporting children to articulate their ideas, evaluate their work and develop confidence in using artistic and technical vocabulary.

Impact

The impact of our Art and Design and Design Technology curriculum is seen in:

- Pupils who are confident, creative and able to talk about their artwork and products using appropriate artistic and technical vocabulary.
- Strong outcomes, with progress and attainment for all groups closely monitored ensuring every child develops secure practical skills and artistic understanding.
- Evidence in sketchbooks and pupil voice proves that children can recall prior learning, apply skills independently and make meaningful connections across techniques, materials and concepts.
- Consistent, well-sequenced progression across the school, aligned with our bespoke curriculum and informed by ongoing assessment, enabling children to build securely on previous skills year on year.
- Children who enjoy Art and DT, show resilience when developing and refining their ideas and approach creative and practical challenges with curiosity and confidence.

Through high-quality teaching, purposeful practice and an inclusive, skills-rich approach, pupils at St George's leave us well-prepared for the next stage of their education—creative, capable and ready to live life in all its fullness.

Assessment

Assessment in Art and Design and Design Technology at St George's is ongoing and woven into everyday teaching. Teachers continually observe children's practical skills, techniques and creative decision-making, ensuring that assessment reflects the hands-on, process-driven nature of both subjects. Staff are encouraged to focus on evaluating how confidently and competently children use tools, materials and artistic or technical processes, as these practical elements form the foundation of high-quality Art and DT learning.

Progress is monitored throughout each unit, with teachers identifying next steps, providing targeted support and celebrating children's achievements. Formal reporting to parents takes place twice yearly, offering clear information about each child's development, strengths and areas to build on. This approach ensures that assessment remains purposeful, supportive and closely aligned with the creative and practical aims of our bespoke curriculum.