

Northcote Primary School **Design and Technology Policy**

Introduction

Design and Technology (D&T) involves applying knowledge and skills when designing and making products. The activities undertaken will enable our children to consider the needs of individuals and society within a caring community. Undertaking D&T activities in school will give our children opportunities to use a range of materials and processes, and to work independently or as part of a team. We follow a three-part process of 'design, make and evaluate'.

Our work reflects the National Curriculum requirements for Design and Technology:

The order states the importance of design and technology:-

Design and technology prepares pupils to participate in tomorrow's rapidly changing technologies. They learn to think and intervene creatively to improve quality of life. The subject calls for pupils to become autonomous and creative problem solvers, as individuals and members of a team. They must look for needs, wants and opportunities and respond to them by developing a range of ideas and making products and systems. They combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetics, social and environmental issues, function and industrial practices. As they do so, they reflect on and evaluate present and past design and technology, its uses and effects. Through design and technology, all pupils can become discriminating and informed users of products, and become innovators.

'Pupils should be taught to develop their design and technology capability through combining their designing and making skills with knowledge and understanding, in order to design and make products'

Aims

Our approach to D&T is based upon our general school aims. As teachers we aim to:

- Provide a range of structured and differentiated activities which develop breadth and progression. Where possible these will relate to the interest and everyday experiences of our children.
- Develop knowledge and teach skills in order to design, make and evaluate products successfully.
- Help children become aware of and investigate simple products by disassembly and evaluation.
- Provide adequate time, access to information, skills and resources to make a good quality product.
- Motivate pupils by providing interesting and stimulating experiences.
- Provide opportunities for achievement, at all levels, standards and capabilities.
- Enable children to use design and technology to solve a range of problems.

Curriculum Organisation

Class teachers will be responsible for the delivery of D&T by following set schemes as outlined in each year group's units of work. D&T is to be delivered during set D&T lessons each week, which will alternate with Art every half term. The children will have the opportunity to work individually, in small groups and as a whole class in their classrooms.

Pupils will be following the Projects on a Page Scheme of Work, which is planned to ensure coverage of the National Curriculum.

The co-ordinator will facilitate the development of D&T across the Key Stages and should be viewed as a 'resource' to non-specialists, in promoting enrichment of the curriculum and in providing motivation and inspiration to others. Whole school planning for D&T will be undertaken by all staff and supported through the Projects on a Page scheme of work.

A D&T audit will be done each year by the co-ordinator, with input from all other members of staff, so that resources can be replenished on a regular basis and schemes of work re-assessed. Class teachers should inform the co-ordinator of any resources needed to be included in requisitions. Year specific materials will be delivered to class teachers and are to be stored in classrooms until they are needed. D&T basic resources will be accommodated within the stock rooms but more specialised equipment will be in art resource bases. Perishable items for cookery will be purchased by class teachers and refunded by the administration staff on the production of a receipt.

In an effort to create an environment for learning, the use of effective display work is promoted throughout the Key Stages at all times, including 2D and 3D materials and using photography where it is impractical to display. Children are encouraged to actively participate and be responsible for creating displays, thus demonstrating the value placed on their work.

Whole School Policy

The D&T curriculum has been developed to ensure it is an integral part of the "whole school" approach to children's learning. At Northcote Primary School we believe that our pupils deserve a broad and rich curriculum, and D&T is used to enrich that curriculum further.

Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluating

Class teachers will be responsible for the assessment and recording of pupil's D&T capabilities and achievements. These achievements must be praised and rewarded as would any exceptional achievements in other subjects.

Co-ordinator will meet with teachers informally to discuss progress, schemes of work and resources on a regular basis. Assessment and the recording of a child's personal

development is required throughout the key stages. In order to avoid distinctions and comparisons between pupils we endeavour to assess sensitively, aiming to recognise achievements of the pupil on an individual level.

Reporting to parents will be through three open evenings (one during each term). Parents will also receive a written report detailing the coverage and attainment with regards to the National Curriculum at the end of the Summer term.

This policy will be reviewed annually, as will schemes of work. Development of teacher's expertise may be provided through in-school inset provision, in class support from the co-ordinator, focused staff meetings and attendance of externally held courses.

Special Education Needs and Differentiation

D&T education is one particular area of the Curriculum which allows a great deal of pupil creative expression and non-verbal communication. Therefore, we aim to use the area of Design, Art and Craft and as a means of supporting children with S.E.N. to develop their own learning skills and levels of personal self-esteem.

Each teacher will make every effort to adapt all areas of the D&T Curriculum to suit the individual needs of the children in their class. Children with any form of Special Educational Need will be able to access the D&T curriculum with great success. If any teacher is unsure about adapting their D&T planning to suit the needs of children in their class, then they should speak to the D&T co-ordinator or to the SEN co-ordinator. Children who have been identified as Gifted and Talented in D&T should be provided with opportunities to take part in any extra-curricular activities, such as making costumes or props for performances.

Role of the Co-ordinator

The co-ordinator works with the whole staff to develop a cohesive D&T experience throughout the school. The co-ordinator will also:

- support colleagues in their development and understanding of detailed work plans and implementation of schemes of work and in assessment and record keeping.
- take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of resources for D&T
- keep up to date with developments in D&T.
- monitor delivery throughout the school.

Equal Opportunities

It is our intention to provide each and every pupil with a broad and balanced D&T curriculum. A curriculum which also approaches those key issues associated with multi-culture and gender. It is our belief that all children (regardless of their own particular ethnic group) have the same entitlement to a broad and varied multi-cultural D&T education, an education which provides a unique insight into the historical and

contemporary traditions of both their own culture and that of other nationalities. In addition, every effort is made to seek out ways of reinforcing sexual equality within the classroom where both sexes are treated fairly and are provided with the same educational opportunities.

Health and Safety

In teaching certain practical elements of D&T to pupils, we recognise that safety is a key issue. All safety precautions must be taken. This is done by recognising health and safety in the classroom organisation and, furthermore, by giving children guidance on how to use the equipment provided. Monitoring the pupils in small groups helps overcome the problems of safety when using potentially dangerous D&T equipment. Children will be introduced to the correct techniques for handling D&T equipment and will develop these techniques as they progress through the school. The co-ordinator is always available to guide staff in the safest ways of using various equipment.

Member of staff responsible: Mrs McMullen

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Date approved by Governors:

Signature of Chair of Governors: