

# Design & Technology



## *Intent, Implementation, Impact*

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### Intent

Design and technology is, at its heart, a cross-curricular subject. It invites children to bring their mathematical skills, their scientific knowledge and their artistic flair and apply them to new, real-world applications. It requires that children investigate the needs of consumers, work collaboratively with others to solve problems, clearly explain and persuasively justify their ideas and critically evaluate and analyse the work of both themselves and others. Design and technology offers the opportunity for children to utilise a breadth of skills and knowledge from other areas of the curriculum and, if planned well, a Design and Technology scheme of work does not take time from other subjects, but provides context, opportunity and engagement, enriching pupils' understanding and giving them ample opportunities to apply that which they have already learnt.

Medway Community Primary School's Design and Technology curriculum aims to utilise Design and Technology as a subject for the power it has to engage and motivate children and teachers alike and to provide children with an answer to the eternal question, 'But why do I need to know this?' Design and Technology is, by its nature, grounded in the real world and in real people; it is about meeting the needs of others and ourselves. As such, it is the ideal vehicle with which to exemplify to children the real-world utility of all they are learning at school. At Medway, children encounter real-life problems through contexts rooted in the wider curriculum and use the range of knowledge and skills at their disposal to creatively solve these problems, supported by quality resources and enthusiastic teachers. Our Design and Technology curriculum follows the principle of 'design/make/evaluate' and we make the most of the cross-curricular opportunities that present themselves at each stage of this process to ensure that Design and Technology is not just a box to tick, but is utilised as the rich resource for cross-curricular learning it is.

### Implementation

At Medway Community Primary School, we look to develop children's skill and knowledge in Design and Technology through a sequence of teaching units that take full advantage of the opportunities provided by our school and its innovative curriculum. Children enthusiastically design, make and evaluate a range of products over the course of their years at Medway, building on their earlier work and using metacognitive strategies to really interrogate and familiarise themselves with their own thought processes, understanding and progress.

Medway looks to support children to use computer-aided design at all levels and our 3D printer is utilised to impressive effect in upper key stage 2. There are strong links between Computing and Design and Technology, with a variety of links being made between other subjects, both foundation and core. Making these links more explicit and taking advantage of them to their fullest extent will be an important focus point over the coming academic year. Children make good progress as they journey through the school, following the National

Curriculum, and are particularly well-versed in evaluating their attempts at design. Going forward, we as a school will work towards improving our coverage of technical knowledge elements of the curriculum through use of increasingly ambitious and interesting practical design projects. There will also be a specific focus on improving provision of food and cooking projects, in order to equip children with a range of basic food preparation skills that will serve them well in later life.

The curriculum at Medway is under constant revision and improvement, as we look to better tailor our offering to our students, equipping them to learn and thrive in our ever-changing world. The Design and Technology curriculum is no exception to this, and, over the course of the next academic year, we intend to overhaul many of the existing schemes of work in order to further broaden and balance the curriculum. Existing cross-curricular links will be strengthened and pupil voices sought in creating projects that spark passion for them. The next two years will be an exciting time for Design and Technology at Medway, as we look to raise the profile of the subject through the use of external visitors, our very popular design club and improved resourcing throughout the school.

### Impact

At Medway Community Primary School, we want our Design and Technology curriculum to provide enriching opportunities for pupils to be creative in designing useful products that could better lives, to develop an interest in the world around them and to consider their potential future contribution to the development of that world. We want them to think critically in their evaluation of both their own work and the work of others. We want them to learn about innovators that came before them, so that they may stand on the shoulders of these giants and look forward to new horizons.

We monitor the impact of our Design and Technology provision through use of discussions with pupils about their learning, which includes discussion of their thoughts, ideas, processing and evaluations of work, and CIA meetings.