

Design Technology

At Watton at Stone Primary School we believe in preparing our children for the changing world. We aim to make design and technology an inspiring, practical subject as they are supported to generate their own ideas, design and make products and systems. They are encouraged to take risks and solve real, relevant problems and are given opportunities to reflect on, evaluate and amend their projects along the way.

Pupils are given opportunities in DT to make plans and communicate their ideas orally, in writing and through drawings and diagrams. They are provided with opportunities to work with a range of tools and equipment and in the process they use a variety of materials including paper, wood, plastic, fabrics and food. We encourage the inclusion of cooking skills where the children will design, make and evaluate food projects and take part in cross curricular tasting sessions.

Our pupils design and make products that solve real, relevant problems within a variety of contexts which are usually linked to class and year group topics, and they learn how to use tools along the way to increase their ability to solve problems. It is through DT that children have the opportunities to see themselves as inventors and they learn to be critical consumers and users.

There is a clear progression of skills throughout the school and children continuously develop these in different curricular areas.

In the foundation Stage, children are provided with opportunities in child initiated and adult led session to use and explore a variety of materials and tools. They have chances to extend and develop new vocabulary and are encouraged to problem solve in order to become independent, lifelong learners.

In Key Stage 1, pupils build on their knowledge and understanding of using tools by learning how to think imaginatively and drawing on their own experiences. They are taught how tools, techniques and materials could be used during the designing and planning stage of a project and are offered opportunities to communicate their ideas. When working with tools and equipment children are taught how to assemble, join and combine materials, and essential food safety and hygiene. When evaluating, they are encouraged to talk about their outcomes by saying what they like and dislike, or how they would improve their work in the future.

In Key Stage 2, pupils are encouraged to work independently and as a team on a range of designing and making activities. They plan what they have to do for a project and come up with a sequence of actions and alternatives. Pupils are encouraged to select appropriate tools and techniques when making and have an alternative action if something does not go to plan. When evaluating, children are asked to reflect on the progress of their work, identifying ways of improving and recognising that the quality of the product depends on how well it has been made.