

Derrymount School

Design and Technology Policy

1. Introduction

This policy describes our approach to the teaching and learning of Design and Technology at Derrymount School. The policy provides a framework for staff to ensure the delivery of high quality teaching and maximum opportunity for our young people to develop an interest in design and making in the areas of food and textiles. It also supports our aim in “Finding pathways to learning and living” in an ever expanding multicultural world, underpinned by a belief that Determination and Motivation are the keys to Success.

The policy is not designed to be prescriptive but to reflect our ethos and long term aims. It lays down minimum expectations for teaching and learning, guidelines for teachers in delivering the curriculum and how the outcomes will be measured and evaluated as part of the whole school curriculum.

This policy will be revised in line with the whole school policy review programme after no longer than three years.

2. Aims

The Design and Technology (D&T) Curriculum contributes to whole school teaching and learning aims and objectives specifically through developing each pupil to;

- learn in an atmosphere in which they can feel happy and secure and are enabled to enjoy and achieve.
- value cultural diversity and difference
- experience learning that is clear, continuous and shows logical progression
- develop self-confidence and personal interaction skills
- make good or better progress from their individual starting points

3. Objectives

Our objectives include enabling our young people to:

1. Develop their skills to use a range of tools to design and create products from food and fabric.
2. Communicate to the best of their ability and enjoy interaction with others.
3. Learn a range of techniques and methods to support the processes of designing and making.
4. Develop enthusiasm and enjoyment for learning, developing ideas and making products.
5. Develop skills in planning, evaluating and reviewing.
6. Develop interest and knowledge about the way of life and cultures of other countries.
7. Develop attitudes which help personal and social development and positive attitudes to the ideas of other people, caring for the environment and sustainable lifestyles.
8. Learn skills which will support independent living.
9. Learn at their own level and experience a positive sense of achievement.

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4. Provision at different Key Stages

In Key Stages 1 and 2 our young people are introduced to the process of design, make and evaluate in the areas of Food and Textiles. The emphasis is on developing skills in creativity and confidence in trying out ideas. The young people are taught to use a range of tools and methods to support learning in later Key Stages, alongside health and safety practices.

In Key Stage 3 (years 7-9) our provision focusses on the development of D&T in the areas of designing and making in textiles and learning about cooking and nutrition. Our young people work towards gaining more independence in the subject, following instructions or recipes more independently.

In Key Stages 4 and 5 our young people continue to study Food, developing skills in preparing meals for independent living. In addition they can choose to continue to study Food and Nutrition to GCSE level or work towards gaining a BTEC Level 1 or 2 in Home Cooking Skills. Courses build upon previous knowledge and are designed to take one or more years depending on level and previous achievement. Teachers will recommend the appropriate pathway for learning for each student and classes are designed to enable students of different abilities to be taught in the same group. Our young people are also able to choose to study Textiles as an Enrichment Subject as part of their Options choices. Although this does not currently lead to a qualification it teaches important skills as well as practical and creative techniques which may be relevant to further study and as part of daily living skills.

5. Teaching

To enable all of our young people to make at least good progress teachers must:

1. Prepare schemes of work and lessons that take account of individual pupil's previous experience and achievements.
2. Use a range of strategies and resources to engage and sustain learning.
3. Plan lessons that sustain learning and engagement throughout the session.
4. Evaluate learning and plan for progression lesson to lesson and over longer periods i.e. half termly.
5. Provide opportunities for parents to engage and support their child's learning.
6. Set, share and evaluate targets with students giving clear direction on how to improve their performance.
7. Use a range of teaching methods and take into account different learning styles.
8. Mark work clearly and in ways which enable the young person to see clearly how well they have achieved and which identifies any support that they may have had.
9. Support both independent and group work.
10. Provide clear and accurate assessment data on a termly basis and make appropriate adjustments to the teaching programme to ensure all students make at least good progress.
11. Provide an end of year report to parents identifying strengths and areas for development, attainment levels and where appropriate predicted examination grades.
12. Ensure that allocated school funds are used effectively to support the delivery of the D&T Curriculum.
13. Ensure resources are well maintained and fit for purpose.
14. Take responsibility for their own professional development and keep abreast of national developments and requirements.
15. Work safely conducting appropriate risk assessments.

6. Learning

Our young people are expected to:

1. Work to the best of their ability
2. Engage in activities and allow others to participate fully in lessons
3. Complete activities that the teacher provides, with support where required
4. Work independently and in groups
5. Respect others and enable them to learn without interference or distraction
6. Respect resources, take care over presentation and take pride in their work
7. Engage throughout the lesson
8. Provide feedback on their enjoyment and achievement in lessons.

7. Monitoring of provision

The Head Teacher is responsible for monitoring the provision of teaching and learning at Derrymount School and will use the following methods to evaluate the quality of the provision we deliver:

1. Lesson observations
2. Learning Walks
3. Pupil Engagement and behaviour management (Enjoyment and achievement)
4. Work scrutiny and work analysis
5. Target setting and pupil achievements
6. Quality control of teacher's planning and evaluations
7. Assessment data – Accuracy and progression
8. Examination results where applicable

This policy is to be reviewed no later than 31st March 2023.