

Published Date:	January 2025
The Policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly, in the light of any significant new developments. The next anticipated review date will be:	January 2026

Design and Technology School Policy

Rationale

Design and Technology (D&T) plays a pivotal role in our school curriculum, supporting the holistic development of our students by equipping them with the skills, creativity, and critical thinking needed for the modern world. Through practical and imaginative learning experiences, students gain the ability to design, make, and evaluate functional products. Our commitment to D&T reflects its importance in fostering problem-solving skills, innovation, and collaboration, preparing students for future challenges and opportunities.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, Design and Technology focuses on exploratory play and hands-on activities to develop foundational skills. Through structured and open-ended tasks, children experiment with different materials, tools, and techniques to create simple models and constructions. Activities such as assembling, cutting, joining, and building help develop fine motor skills, spatial awareness, and an understanding of basic concepts such as structure and function. These experiences lay the groundwork for creativity and technical knowledge in later years.

Primary and Secondary Phase

Our Design and Technology curriculum builds progressively from the foundational skills developed in EYFS, encouraging students to engage with increasingly complex design challenges. By integrating the aims of the UK National Curriculum, the program ensures students can:

- Develop creative, technical, and practical expertise to perform everyday tasks confidently.
- Design purposeful, functional, and appealing products for themselves and others.
- Use a range of tools and materials to construct and evaluate products.
- Understand and apply principles of nutrition and learn basic cooking skills.

Secondary Phase

Vision

'At GFM we empower students to have the heart to celebrate uniqueness and the mind to be innovative, creative problem solvers, bringing a positive change to the world in which we live.'

In the secondary phase, students delve deeper into D&T, specializing in areas such as textiles, product design, electronics, and food technology. They are taught to:

- Develop detailed design briefs and specifications for real-world needs.
- Use advanced tools, equipment, and techniques to create high-quality prototypes and products.
- Apply principles of mathematics, science, and engineering to inform their designs.
- Analyze and evaluate their own work and that of others, considering function, aesthetics, and sustainability.

Assessment

Assessments in Design and Technology are both formative and summative, focusing on practical application, problem-solving, and reflection. These include individual and group projects, portfolios, and practical evaluations. Students are assessed against the objectives of the EYFS or the UK National Curriculum, ensuring progress in creativity, technical skills, and conceptual understanding.

Inclusion

The school ensures all students can access and excel in D&T education, providing additional support and adapted resources for those with special educational needs. Students with exceptional talents are given opportunities to further their skills through enrichment programs, workshops, and challenges tailored to their abilities. By fostering an inclusive environment, the school celebrates diverse abilities and encourages every student to reach their full potential.

Enrichment

To enrich the D&T experience, the school offers activities such as after-school clubs, collaborative projects, and visits to design exhibitions and industry settings. These opportunities broaden students' perspectives, inspire innovation, and connect their learning to real-world applications. Participation in regional and national competitions is also encouraged, fostering a culture of excellence and ambition.

Parental Involvement

We value the role of parents in supporting their children's learning in Design and Technology. Regular updates, showcases of student projects, and invitations to exhibitions and events are provided to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Through a curriculum rooted in creativity, technical skill development, and real-world application, our Design and Technology policy aims to empower students to become confident, innovative, and thoughtful contributors to society.

Vision

'At GFM we empower students to have the heart to celebrate uniqueness and the mind to be innovative, creative problem solvers, bringing a positive change to the world in which we live.'