

Design and Technology at Ramsbury School

Design and Technology enables children to develop practical life skills which supports their understanding of technology, creativity and design. It teaches children how to take risks and to become more resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable.

Intent

At Ramsbury School, we encourage children to use their creativity and imagination, to design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts. Children are encouraged to consider their own and others' needs, wants and values and develop the confidence to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world. We aim to, wherever possible, link work to other areas of learning such as Mathematics, Science, Engineering, Computing and Art. Children are given opportunities to critique and evaluate past and present design technology, its uses and its effectiveness. They are encouraged to become innovators and risk-takers who think outside the box when designing purposeful, functional and appealing products for themselves and other users based on design criteria. At Ramsbury School, we think it is extremely important to inspire the next generation of inventors to open their eyes to the opportunities available to them in the future.

Implementation

At Ramsbury School, the children experience three DT projects each year, which are taught in blocks. In KS1 the following aspects are covered at least once: mechanisms, structures, textiles and food and nutrition. In KS2, the children cover the following aspects twice: mechanical systems, electrical systems, structures, textiles and food and nutrition. This is to ensure the progression of practical skills and the retention of knowledge in long term memory.

At Ramsbury School, we follow an in-depth project process to ensure we produce the leading designers, engineers and inventors of the future. For each project children are given a project title and brief which outlines a product, user and purpose for their DT aspect. The first process is the investigative and evaluative stage. This gives our children an opportunity to investigate, analyse and evaluate pre-existing products, as well as research significant people and events. Once secure, children then move on to the focussed task stage. This rigorous and lengthy process allows children to learn new skills, experiment with these skills and to evaluate the use of tools and materials. We then feel our children are best prepared to use this knowledge and skills to design, make and evaluate their products within a context that is authentic and meaningful, using an iterative process. This process allows our children to combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetic, social and environmental issues, as well as functions and industry.

We acknowledge children use technology widely outside of school and feel it is our responsibility to ensure children have the knowledge and understanding to enable them to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world. Our involvement with local industries, such as Dyson and the Primary Engineers Programme, ensures that children learn through varied and first-hand experiences of the world around them. Ramsbury School Open Design Studios, which showcase the design process in its entirety, to the whole of the school and our local community, provide our children real world opportunities to develop their critical design skills. We encourage children through setting family homework and as part of regular school family learning sessions, to work creatively with family members in order to learn new skills and apply and build on knowledge learnt through school-based learning.

Impact

As a result of high-quality provision, children make good progress, building knowledge and skills as they move through school. They develop a passion and enthusiasm for design and technology and gain satisfaction from creating and improving their original designs, using an iterative process. Our children value the process that leads up to their final product, giving them the resilience and confidence to refine and modify their work throughout the project. By developing their creativeness, technical and practical expertise, children at Ramsbury School are able to complete tasks confidently. Children become creative problem solvers and thinkers as individuals and as part of a team, they are able to consider alternative materials specific to a particular purpose and with an intended user in mind. Ramsbury children are reflective, innovative and enterprising designers and through the evaluation of past and present design and technology, they develop a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world. Our high-quality design and technology education makes an essential contribution to the creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of the community.



The Curriculum Leader for Design Technology is Mrs Chelsea Cooke.