

## **Belvedere Junior School**

### **Design and Technology Curriculum Rationale**

At Belvedere Junior School, our Design and Technology curriculum is designed to inspire creativity, problem-solving, and innovation. Through a broad and engaging programme of study, children develop practical skills, technical knowledge, and the confidence to design and make purposeful products. Our curriculum enables pupils to understand how design and technology has shaped the world around them, while preparing them to contribute as thoughtful, resourceful, and responsible citizens.

We support our children to aspire to excellence—intellectually, practically, and creatively—through hands-on learning experiences that challenge and excite. Pupils are encouraged to think critically, work collaboratively, and approach problems with resilience and imagination. They learn to research, plan, design, make and evaluate with increasing independence and precision.

The curriculum is carefully structured to develop both knowledge and skills across a range of areas, including mechanisms, structures, textiles, food technology, and electrical systems. Pupils apply their learning in real-life contexts, making connections between disciplines such as maths, science, computing, and art, and recognising the relevance of D&T to everyday life and future careers.

Each project provides opportunities to explore user needs, environmental impact, and function. Pupils are taught to use tools, equipment, and materials safely and effectively, evaluating their outcomes and refining their ideas. High-quality resources and a wide range of materials—including wood, textiles, food ingredients, construction kits, and digital tools—allow for varied and meaningful experiences.

Learning is documented in individual project books or design folders, where children capture their research, annotated sketches, prototypes, step-by-step plans, and evaluations. This process encourages pupils to reflect on their learning journey, identify improvements, and take pride in their achievements.

Assessment in D&T is ongoing, taking place during lessons through verbal feedback and teacher observation. Teachers use formative assessment to inform next steps, ensuring that all children are appropriately supported and challenged. Peer and self-assessment are embedded into the process, encouraging children to reflect critically and constructively on their work and that of others.



We provide opportunities to showcase D&T learning throughout the year, including classroom displays, exhibitions, and themed days such as STEM Week. These celebrations of innovation and effort help foster a sense of pride, purpose and achievement.

At Belvedere Junior School, we believe that Design and Technology is a vital subject for developing the creative thinkers, problem-solvers and innovators of tomorrow. Through our curriculum, we empower pupils to shape the world around them with confidence, skill and care.

