



The Aims and Intention of DT

"DT is the perfect example of head and hands working together. D&T is often one of a child's favourite subjects. Children like making decisions for themselves and doing practical work. They love creating products they can see, touch - and even taste - for themselves. They feel proud to have done so. Essentially, DT brings learning to life."

(The Design and Technology Association - <https://www.data.org.uk/for-education/primary/>)

At Alton Infant School, we aim to provide inclusive opportunities so that all children can use their creativity and imagination skills to design, create and evaluate products that can help to solve real and relevant problems, in a variety of contexts. Through a range of creative and hands on activities, we intend to support the children as they develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to plan, design, make and evaluate quality products. We intend to encourage all children to show the willingness to take risks in order to produce innovative products, to move 'outside the box' with their designs, and to show enthusiasm in evaluation.

Ultimately, our intention for DT is that when children leave Alton Infant School, they have a passion for the subject, and have been inspired so that they go on to be the designers and creators of the future.

The Implementation of DT

At Alton Infant School, the DT curriculum is taught via DT objectives, taught through topic based lessons. DT units are taught across the academic year.

In the Foundation Stage, DT is accessed through the ELGs Expressive Arts and Design (Creating with Materials) and Physical Development (Fine Motor Skills). The children are encouraged to use their imagination and to use what they already know about materials and media in creative ways. Children are given the opportunity to explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques safely and are encouraged to investigate design, texture, form and function. Our children also have the experience of sharing their products with others, and reflecting upon the processes used.

As the children move into KS1, the skills introduced in EYFS are built upon, and children are exposed to designing and creating a product for a specific purpose. Children explore units of work including food technology, materials, textiles, construction and mechanics. In Year 1, children begin to understand the notion behind

simple mechanics by designing and creating a split pin fairy character/moving picture to accompany their fairy stories. They participate in discussions about healthy eating and nutrients, having the opportunity to cook with specialist teachers. The children also design and make their own kites and pop up toys using a range of tools and equipment, choosing materials according to their functional properties.

Construction skills are built upon in Year 2 as the children have the experience of designing and making their own-wheeled vehicle, applying the knowledge that they already have of vehicle parts and their functions. Children participate in food technology sessions, and develop their knowledge further of healthy foods and nutrients. In Year 2, our children also have the opportunity to work with different textiles to create their own individual felt hand puppet, developing the design, and choosing the appropriate materials.

Alton Infant School uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in DT lessons in order to develop children's knowledge, skills and understanding. We provide a curriculum that is practical and inclusive, enabling all children to participate in meaningful activities where they are encouraged to talk about their plans and to reflect upon their own and other's work in a constructive way. Children are given the opportunity to work independently, in pairs and with other children in group scenarios. Children are supported with their choices of materials and resources and are guided in how to use tools and equipment safely and responsibly.

Ultimately, our focus is not just on the finished product, but the whole process from designing through to the creating. We want our children to be excited about making decisions for themselves, to develop their own design ideas, and to be enthusiastic about evaluating their design so that they learn to create quality products.

The Impact of DT

At Alton Infant School, our mission is to ensure that all our children's attainment is in line or exceeds their own potentials, especially when we consider the varied starting points of the children when they start their AIS journey. We want the children to show enjoyment and confidence in DT that they can then apply to other areas of the curriculum, and eventually into their own life experiences beyond school.

In our school, we can judge the success of our DT curriculum in a variety of ways:

- A clear progression of skills
- Pupil Conferencing - are the children happy and engaged? Are they motivated to do well? Do the children feel challenged? Can they express their opinions about DT as a whole subject?
- Photographs and examples of work that show a clear progression of skills between different year groups.

- Lesson drop ins
- A DT subject manager who has passion for the subject, and can clearly discuss and articulate the progression of skills from EYFS through into KS1.