Design & Technology vocabulary for the National Curriculum



This document sets out FS, KS1 and KS2 Design & Technology vocabulary under the EYFS Development Matters and National Curriculum. The tables can be used to check pupils' understanding of new vocabulary introduced from FS-Y6.

The lists are intended as a guide as to what pupils should know, and are not exhaustive. Of course, key terms may be introduced earlier as a challenge for our learners, although it is also important to ensure that learning is 'new' and carries an 'element of surprise'.

	Progression in Design & Technology Vocabulary from Foundation Stage to Year 6.						
Year	FS	1	2	3	4	5	6
	0-3 -	Net- a 3D shape	Net- a 3D shape	Design -a plan or	Design-a plan or drawing	Design -a plan or	Design- a plan or
	build	is what it looks like if	is what it looks like if	drawing produced to	produced to show final	drawing produced to	drawing produced to
	block	it is opened out flat.	it is opened out flat.	show final product.	product.	show final product.	show final product.
	stick	Design- a plan or	Design- a plan or	Make- the process in	Make-the process in which	Make-the process in	Make -the process in
	3-4 -	drawing produced to	drawing produced to	which you carry out the	you carry out the design.	which you carry out	which you carry out
	Stack	show final product.	show final product.	design.	Evaluate- to judge the	the design.	the design.
	Space	Make -the process in	Evaluate- to judge	Evaluate- to judge the	value or worth of	Evaluate- to judge	Evaluate- to judge the
	Balance	which you carry out	the value or worth of	value or worth of	something to see what can	the value or worth of	value or worth of
	Model	the design.	something to see	something to see what	be done better next time.	something to see	something to see what
	Fold	Evaluate- to judge	what can be done	can be done better next	Improve	what can be done	can be done better
	Bend	the value or worth of	better next time.	time.	Modify- make partial or	better next time.	next time.
	Fasten	something.	Make- the process in	Assemble	minor changes.	Analyse- studying	Prototypes - a test, or
	Reception	Cut	which you carry out	Scoring	Research- revolves around	how well a product	original, model of a
	_	Measure	the design.	Joins	gathering in-depth	does its job.	product or a
	Construct	Glue	Measure	sliding lid	information about	Structures- are	technology from
	Join	Fold	Assemble	integrated hinge	customer or user needs	categorised	which improvements,
	Fringe	Lid	Fold	push on lid	and preferences.	as: Bridges,	upgrades or
	Tear	Side	Scoring	added hinge	Plan	Containers,	fundamental changes
	Scrunch	Join- where two or	Joins	padding	Procedures	Buildings,	can be made.
	Link	more things are	sliding lid	layers	Weave	Vehicles, Towers,	Generate
	Insert	connected or	push on lid	dividers	Prepare	Furniture, Fairground	Develop
	Slot	fastened together.	padding	drawers	apply	Rides, Enclosures	Model
	tab	Corner	layers	illustrate	prepare	etc.	Annotate
		Decorate	illustrate		discussion		Shaping
		Stick	stretch		explore	File	Stiffen
		Twist	wrap		compare	Investigate	Reinforce
		Poke	spin			Functional -	aesthetic qualities
		Model	attach			Designed to be	consider
		Stronger	test			practical and useful,	

Stable	bend		rather than	
Template - shaped			attractive.	
piece of rigid			Components –	
material (card) used			individual pieces that	
as an outline.			contribute to making	
Axle- the rod that			something.	
goes right through			Properties	
the very center of			Strengthen - The	
the wheel to help it			capacity of an object	
move and stay in			to withstand great	
place.			force or pressure.	
Wheel - wheel is the			Improve	
round circle.			Sew	
			Stuff	

The Sacred Heart DAWN Curriculum: Design & Technology: Children can...

	DESIGN AND DEVELOP	MAKING	PRODUCT AND EVALUATION
FS	Talk about what they want to make.	Make models randomly.	Be excited about what they have made.
Y1	Generate ideas from their own experience.	Know the features of some familiar products.	Recognise the characteristics of familiar
	Talk about their ideas and say what will be	Join two materials together, often with glue.	products.
	done.	Use scissors to cut, sometimes with help.	Know how some moving objects work.
	Describe what they want to do using pictures	Make simple models, not necessarily with a	Use simple terms to talk about their own and
	and words.	purpose.	others' work.
	Make lists of materials they will need.	Use simple construction kits – e.g. Lego.	Identify materials and mechanisms in familiar
		Know about basic hygiene and safety.	products.
			Know the benefits of fruit and vegetables.
Y2	Generate ideas, and plan what to do next,	Begin to select tools for folding, joining, rolling.	Talk about how moving objects work.
	using their experience of materials and	Measure out and cut fabric.	Describe how a commercial product works.
	components.	Use a simple template for cutting out.	Use like and dislike when evaluating or
	Use their knowledge of some working	Practise skills before using them.	describing.
	characteristics of materials when designing.	Use simple finishing techniques.	Explain why some products are useful.
	Use wheels, slides and levers in plans.	Select tools and techniques appropriate to the job.	Use digital photography to present design or
	Use plans to show how to put their ideas into	Follow basic safety rules.	finished work.
	practice.	Understand and use the terms ingredient and	Recognise what they have done well and talk
	Say how the product will be useful to the user.	component.	about what could be improved.
	Draw pictures with labels, with some text.	Use simple scales or balances.	Seek out the views and judgements of others.
		Understand main rules of food hygiene.	Predict how changes will improve the finished

			product.
Y3	Use others to help generate their ideas. Use what they know about the properties of materials. Plan their work to include a range of joins. Ensure that plans are realistic and appropriate for the aim. Show the order of working in plans. Use models, pictures and words in designs. Make increasing use of ICT to plan ideas. Recognise that designs must meet a range of needs. Say why something will be useful. Apply what they know about mechanisms to create movement when planning and designing. Investigate a range of products to see how they work.	Measure and cut out using centimetres and weigh in grams. Choose tools and equipment, which are appropriate for the job. Prepare for work by assembling components together before joining. Use scoring and folding for precision. Make holes using a punch and drill. Work out how to make models stronger. Alter and adapt materials to make them stronger. Combine a number of components together in different ways. Make the finished product neat and tidy. Begin to select their own ingredients when cooking or baking. Make good presentation of food.	Be clear about their ideas when asked. Can alter and adapt original plans following discussion and evaluation. Recognise what has gone well, but suggest further improvements for the finished article. Suggest which elements they would do better in the future. Identify where evaluation has led to improvements. Understand safe food storage.
Y4	Collect and use information to generate ideas. Consider the way the product will be used. Understand designs must meet a range of criteria and constraints. Take users' views into account. Understand how some properties can be used – e.g. waterproof. Think ahead about the order of their work. Add electricity to create motion or make light. Produce step by step plans. Make ongoing sketches and annotations.	Increasingly model their ideas before making. Measure accurately to centimetres and grams. Combine materials for strength and to improve how the product looks. Use permanent and temporary fastenings to join. Join with a greater range of techniques – e.g. staples. Strengthen joins and corners in a variety of ways. Understand how wheels, axles, turning mechanisms, hinges and levers all work together.	Talk about what they like and dislike, giving reasons. Develop their designs through their own reflection and the evaluation of others. Carry out tests before making improvements. Evaluate food by taste, texture, flavour etc.
Y5	Make more complex designs to include belts and pulleys, and a combination of other mechanisms. Plan the order of work by thinking ahead. Use sketches to show other ways of doing things — and then make choices. Meet an identified need — e.g. a meal for an older person — by selecting ingredients or materials. Use various sources of information and draw	Carry out tests to see if their design works. Make improvements from design suggestions. Work in a safe and hygienic way. Measure and cut precisely to millimetres. Make stable and strong joins to stand the test of time. Use proportions when cooking, by doubling and halving recipes.	Identify what is working well and what might be improved – and make choices from several alternatives. Refine the quality of the finished product, including making annotations on the design. Clarify ideas through drawing and modeling. Increasingly use testing to improve models and finished products.

	on them in design.		
Y6	Keep cost constraints in mind when selecting	Measure and cut out in precise detail, and make	Research products using the internet.
	materials in design.	sure that finished products are carefully	Test and evaluate commercial products,
	Use their knowledge of –e.g science and art	Finished.	understanding how this information supports
	when designing.	Make separate elements of a model before	their own designs.
	Be aware of commercial aspects and	combining into the finished article.	Evaluate a range of different sources of
	incorporate these into their designs.	Understand how an article might be mass	information such as advertising and handbooks.
	Draw scaled diagrams with increasing use of	produced.	_
	ratio.	Produce a simple instruction manual or handbook	
	Calculate the amount of materials needed use	for their product.	
	this to estimate cost.	·	

The Sacred Heart DAWN Curriculum: Design & Technology: Highly Effective AfL Questions

	DESIGN AND DEVELOP	MAKING	PRODUCT AND EVALUATION		
	G&T Question: What is unique about your design?				
	Grey Sections: To be assessed practically through practical work and the skills they have used.				
FS	Can you talk about what they want to make?	Can you make models randomly?	Can you show excitement about what you have made and talk about why it has made you feel		
			this way?		
Y1	Can you generate ideas from their own experience?	Do you know the features of some familiar products?	Can you recognise the characteristics of familiar products?		
	Can you talk about your ideas and say what	Can you join two materials together, often with	Do you know how some moving objects work?		
	will be done?	glue?	Can you use simple terms to talk about your own		
	Can you describe what they want to do using	Can you use scissors to cut, sometimes with help?	and others' work?		
	pictures and words?	Can you make simple models, not necessarily with	Can you identify materials and mechanisms in		
	Can you make lists of materials you will need?	a purpose?	familiar products?		
		Can you use simple construction kits – e.g. Lego?	Do you know the benefits of fruit and		
		Do you know about basic hygiene and safety?	vegetables?		
Y2	Can you generate ideas, and plan what to do	Can you begin to select tools for folding, joining,	Can you talk about how moving objects work?		
	next, using your experience of materials and	rolling?	Can you research and describe how a		
	components?	Do you know how to measure out and cut fabric?	commercial product works?		

	Can you use your knowledge of some working characteristics of materials when designing? Can you use wheels, slides and levers in plans? How can you put your ideas in practice? Can you say how the product will be useful to the user? Can you draw pictures with labels, with some text?	Can you use a simple template for cutting out? Can you practise skills before using them? Can you use simple finishing techniques? Can you select tools and techniques appropriate to the job? Do you know how to follow basic safety rules? Can you understand and use the terms ingredient and component? How do you use simple scales to balance? Can you understand main rules of food hygiene?	Can you use like and dislike when evaluating or describing? How are some products useful? Can you use digital photography to present design or finished work? Can you recognise what you have done well and talk about what could be improved? Can you seek out the views and judgements of others? Can you predict how changes will improve the finished product?
Y3	How could you generate ideas? Can you use what you know about the properties of materials? Can you plan your work to include a range of joins Can you ensure that plans are realistic and appropriate for the aim? Can you show the order of working in plans? Can you use models, pictures and words in designs? Can you use of ICT to plan ideas? Do your designs meet a range of needs? Can you say why something will be useful? Can you apply what you know about mechanisms to create movement when planning and designing? Can you investigate a range of products to see how they work?	Can you measure and cut out using centimetres and weigh in grams? What equipment do you need to measure weight? How do you know the tools and equipment are appropriate for the job? How can you prepare for work before joining? What can you use for precision? What can you use to make holes? How can you make models stronger? Can you combine a number of components together in different ways? Can you make the finished product neat and tidy? What ingredients will you need when cooking or baking? How can you record this? How can you make good presentation of food?	How can you be clear about your ideas when asked? Can you alter and adapt original plans following discussion and evaluation? How can you suggest further improvements for the finished article? Can you discuss and suggest which elements you would do better in the future? Can you identify where evaluation has led to improvements? Why is food storage important?
Y4	How can you collect and use information to generate ideas? Can you consider the way the product will be used? Do you understand designs must meet a range of criteria and constraints? Can you take users' views into account? Do you understand how some properties can be used – e.g. waterproof? Can you think ahead about the order of their	Can you increasingly model their ideas before making? How can you measure accurately to centimetres and grams? How can you combine materials for strength and to improve how the product looks? Can you use permanent and temporary fastenings to join? Can you join with a greater range of techniques – e.g. staples?	Can you talk about what you like and dislike, giving reasons? Can you develop your designs through your own reflection and the evaluation of others? How can you carry out tests before making improvements? Can you evaluate food by taste, texture, flavour etc?

	work? Can you think about how to add electricity to create motion or make light? Can you produce step-by-step plans? Can you make ongoing sketches and annotations?	How can you strengthen joins and corners in a variety of ways? Do you understand how wheels, axles, turning mechanisms, hinges and levers all work together?	
Y5	Can you make more complex designs to include belts and pulleys, and a combination of other mechanisms? Can you plan the order of work by thinking ahead? How can you use sketches to show other ways of doing things – and then make choices? How can you make sure you have met an identified need – e.g. a meal for an older person? How can you use various sources of information and draw on them in design?	How can you carry out tests to see if your design works? Can you make improvements from design suggestions? Do you know how to work in a safe and hygienic way? What can you use to measure and cut precisely to millimetres? How can you make stable and strong joins to stand the test of time? Can you use proportions when cooking?	Can you identify what is working well and what might be improved – and make choices from several alternatives? How can you refine the quality of the finished product, including making annotations on the design? Can you clarify ideas through drawing and modeling? How can you use testing to improve models and finished products?
Y6	How can you keep cost constraints in mind when selecting materials in design? Can you use your knowledge of –e.g science and art when designing? Are you aware of commercial aspects and can incorporate these into your designs? Can you draw scaled diagrams with increasing use of ratio? Can you calculate the amount of materials needed use this to estimate cost?	How can you measure and cut out in precise detail, and make sure that finished products are carefully finished? Can you make separate elements of a model before combining into the finished article? Do you understand how an article might be mass-produced? Can you produce a simple instruction manual or handbook for their product?	How might you research products? How can you test and evaluate commercial products? Do you understanding how this information supports own designs? Can you evaluate a range of different sources of information such as advertising and handbooks?