Design and Technology through the Early years at St Mary's

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts.

In Nursery and Reception we teach Design and Technology through the EYFS area of Expressive Arts and Design.

Nursery

By the end of their time in Nursery, children will have had many opportunities to explore St Mary's Big Ideas **Skills and expertise, Design and Evaluation** through construction activities, cooking activities and junk modelling both indoors and outdoors.

Skills and Expertise

Nursery children learn how to build with a wide range of construction toys during child-initiated learning. Children learn how to join the pieces together by exploring during child-initiated learning, by being shown by an adult or watching other children. They learn how to use a variety of tools such as scissors and rolling pins. They begin to learn the skills of cooking such as mixing.

Design

Nursery children explore different construction toys, junk and tools and learn how to build and construct and join through trial and error and by watching others. They learn how to design through building models and by watching others.

Evaluate

Nursery children begin to evaluate the models they make and adapt them as necessary with support.

By the end of their time in nursery children will have had opportunities to:

- Join different materials and explore different textures.
- Explore different materials freely, to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make.
- Explore how things work.
- Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors.

Reception

In reception children further learn to build, design and evaluate by building with a wider variety of construction materials and learn to use more tools and joining materials such as treasury tags, string and split pins. Reception children build with a purpose in mind through previous experiences and learn to evaluate their models and pieces of work by collaborating with others and learning from previous errors. They further develop their cooking skills by mixing, measuring and chopping.

Skills and expertise

Reception children build on skills learned in Nursery and become more expert in building models that are more complex and explain how they work. They develop the ability to join more complex construction toys such as using screws and bolts and they join card, paper and boxes with more appropriate materials. They develop a greater understanding of cooking such as knowing how to make play dough.

Design

Reception children further develop their designing skills and build for a purpose rather than building by outcome. They learn to explain how their models work and move. They begin to draw their designs such as drawing the design for their salt dough Christmas decorations.

Evaluate

Reception children evaluate the models they make and adapt them as necessary to improve their design. They learn how to make large constructions safe such as when building with big blocks, they adapt their structures to make them safe to climb and balance on.

By the end of their time in Reception children will have had opportunities to:

- Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them.
- Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently.

By the end of their time in Reception, most children will be able to:

- Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function; share their creations, explaining the process they have used.