Design and Technology Policy

Introduction

This policy reflects the values, ethos and philosophy of Greenside School in relation to the teaching of Design and Technology. It provides guidance on, content, planning, teaching and assessment.

The Design and Technology Policy is a working document and as such it reflects both the practices that are carried out and those to which the school is striving.

The policy is agreed upon by the whole teaching staff and presented to the Governing Body. The document is available for interested parties.

Rationale

The aim of teaching Design and Technology in the curriculum is primarily to assist pupils by enabling them to combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetics, social and environmental issues, function and industrial practices.

Aims

- Recognise their own creative ability and that of others.
- Reflect upon how technology affects their environment.
- Interact and collaborate with others sharing and experiencing design ideas.
- Explore materials and how they can be used to create simple mechanisms and structures.
- To provide access to new technologies.
- To develop the children's ability to think creatively as problem solvers, individually and with others.
- To enable the children to learn about the manufacture and production of products and to consider the impacts of these processes upon the environment.

Implementation

At Greenside School the Scheme of Work developed by EQUALS is used to inform medium term planning for the content and suggestions for teaching and learning activities.

Equal Opportunities

The Scheme of Work contains differentiated learning objectives. Teachers will provide any other, adaptations, specific teaching techniques and specialist resources required to overcome individual pupils' barriers to learning. The entitlement of all pupils to a full curriculum is acknowledged.

Teaching and Organisation

Individual class teachers are responsible for their own class organisation and teaching style in relation to Design and Technology, while at the same time ensuring that these complement and reflect the overall aims and philosophy of the school. In addition to following the Scheme of Work pupils are expected to develop their own personal skills and knowledge of a wide range of materials and equipment.

Pupils are given the opportunity to work as a class, as part of a group or as individuals. The learning task or activity, the nature of the topic being studied and the resources being used will determine the choice of class organisation. Design and Technology should endeavour to be meaningful and relevant to the pupils.

Design and Technology should be regarded as an integral part of the whole curriculum.

Older students should have access to a range of tools and equipment which they are able to use in a well – supervised environment.

Health and Safety

Pupils will have access to potentially dangerous equipment under direct adult supervision, eg all sharp knives/ blades and glue guns must be placed in a locked cupboard after use.

Pupils will be taught to develop their knowledge and understanding of health and safety as designers, makers and consumers including:
- recognising hazards to themselves and to others in a range of products, activities and environments.
- accessing risks to themselves and others.
- taking action to control these risks.

Assessment

Teachers must continually assess pupils' current understanding and knowledge in order to ensure that appropriate learning targets are set.

Reporting

Design and Technology will be reported on in the end of year reports.

Resources

A range of Design and Technology resources is available in school. The majority of resources are stored in the cupboard located outside S4 / T1. Some resources are located within individual classrooms.
The subject leader is responsible for the Design and Technology resources. The purchase of resources is planned each year in consultation with all teachers.

Monitoring and Evaluation
Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out in order to enhance the teaching and learning of Design and Technology within our school. It is the responsibility of all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, to monitor and evaluate the curriculum provision made for Design and Technology within the school, so that pupils make the greatest possible progress and enjoy the learning experience.

Evaluation will be conducted according to the priority given to Design and Technology within the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

The subject leader is available for advice and is responsible for aspects of monitoring and evaluation.

Review of the policy
The policy will be reviewed annually be the Head and subject leader.