

Design & Technology

Sequence of Learning

A Visual Roadmap Through Key Stages

Learning Journey Overview

Progressive development across key stages

Discover

KS2 & KS3

Explore

KS3

Aspire

Year 9

Lead

KS4

Ready

Post-16

DISCOVER

Key Stage 2 & 3 - Building foundational skills

Key Concepts

- Describe how historical products influenced design
- Identify material properties and create structures
- Generate and visualize design ideas

Making & Understanding

- Produce plans with labeled sketches
- Understand different drawing views
- Research designers and products
- Prototype frame structures

EXPLORE

Key Stage 3 - Developing design independence

Design Skills

- Produce labeled sketches and plans
- Check work against plans and annotate
- Use cultural influences in design choices
- Explain choices and compare products

Technical Development

- Select appropriate materials
- Demonstrate safe use of tools
- Apply finishing techniques
- Evaluate and suggest improvements

ASPIRE

Year 9 - Refining skills and making choices

Advanced Design

- Create detailed design specifications
- Develop multiple design solutions
- Use CAD/CAM for precision
- Consider environmental and social factors

Making Excellence

- Demonstrate accuracy in construction
- Select and use complex tools
- Apply quality control checks
- Evaluate against specification

LEAD

Key Stage 4 - Demonstrating expertise and innovation

Professional Practice

- Explore techniques to improve skills
- Review techniques to improve outcomes
- Explore skills for progression goals
- Produce progression plans

Industry Awareness

- Understand product development
- Consider sustainability and ethics
- Apply project management
- Present professional portfolios

READY

Post-16 - Preparing for career and higher education

Career Readiness

- Develop employability skills
- Explore apprenticeships and internships
- Build professional portfolios
- Understand next steps in education

Advanced Technical Skills

- Master electronic and robotic design
- Apply office and digital design tools
- Respond to feedback professionally
- Demonstrate health and safety knowledge

Progressive Development

How skills deepen across key stages

Foundation

KS2-3: Discover & Explore

Identify, describe, and explain basic concepts and techniques

Development

Year 9: Aspire

Suggest, recognize, and manage design challenges independently

Mastery

KS4-P16: Lead & Ready

Assess, demonstrate, and evaluate with professional competence

Continuous growth from basic awareness to confident, independent practice

Empowering Students

Through progressive Design & Technology education

Building confident, skilled designers and makers ready for future
careers and creative challenges