Curriculum Intent for Design Technology (DT)

- a curriculum that is ambitious for all pupils;
- a curriculum that is coherently planned and sequenced;
- a curriculum that is successfully adapted, designed and developed for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities:
- a curriculum that is broad and balanced for all pupils.

What does DT look like at West Ashtead?

DT is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts. Children have opportunities to develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate, critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others.

Children are encouraged to:

- generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through discussion, annotated sketches, cross-sectional and exploded diagrams, prototypes, pattern pieces and computer-aided design;
- select from and use a wider range of tools and equipment to perform practical tasks [for example, cutting, shaping, joining and finishing], accurately;
- select from and use a wider range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities;
- investigate and analyse a range of existing products;
- evaluate their ideas and products against their own design criteria and consider the views of others to improve their work;
- understand how key events and individuals in design and technology have helped shape the world;
- understand and use mechanical systems in their products [for example, gears, pulleys, cams, levers and linkages];
- understand and use electrical systems in their products [for example, series circuits incorporating switches, bulbs, buzzers and motors];
- apply their understanding of computing to program, monitor and control their products;
- understand and apply the principles of a healthy and varied diet;
- prepare and cook a variety of predominantly savoury dishes using a range of cooking techniques;

DT is taught in a cross-curricular approach to maximise relevance for the children and to add cohesion to the curriculum.

What do our children say about DT?

"It was fun designing our own bread and then sharing it with our friends." Year 3

"I really enjoyed learning how to use a saw to make my wooden tray and I love maths, so it was fun to work out how much profit we would make for our charity." Year 6

Why is DT important?	How do we enrich our children's understanding of DT?
Children need to learn to function successfully in an increasingly technological world, building and applying a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users and to understand the world around them. Children need to explore DT in order to foster a curious, enquiring mind, enabling them to explore a future career and study opportunities without the inhibitions of gender bias in the workplace.	For the last two years, we have held 'Enterprise Week'. This is an opportunity for all the children in school, from Reception to Year 6, to design and make a product across one week. They then sell the products with all the profits going to a charity of their choice. As the children progress through the school, so do the new skills they are learning. From simple to design, to making and reflecting on a prototype, and completing financial data to ensure their success at maximising their profits. The children engage so well during this week and there is always a great buzz around the school.