



The Cornwall Independent School

British Values and SMSC in Design Technology



British Values

At The Cornwall Independent School, fostering mutual respect, understanding and a strong sense of community is central to school life. We recognise that modern Britain is made up of people from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures, beliefs and experiences, and we prepare our pupils to live and contribute positively within this diverse society. British Values support the development of respectful, responsible and tolerant citizens who appreciate the rights, freedoms and viewpoints of others. The Cornwall Independent School is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment where all pupils feel valued and protected from intimidation, extremism, radicalisation, or any influence that seeks to undermine their wellbeing, personal development or the values of a democratic society.

Design and Technology (DT) is a practical and creative subject that enables pupils to design, make and evaluate products while developing problem-solving, resilience and innovation skills. Through collaborative projects, safe working practices and thoughtful design decisions, pupils learn to respect the views of others, make informed choices and consider the needs of diverse users, helping to prepare them to become responsible and active members of modern British society.

Democracy	Democracy is promoted in Design and Technology by encouraging pupils to share their ideas, express their opinions and contribute to decision-making processes. During design projects, pupils discuss different solutions, vote on preferred designs and work collaboratively to reach agreed outcomes. They learn that everyone's views are valued and that decisions are often made through consultation and teamwork. By participating in discussions, giving constructive feedback and respecting the opinions of others, pupils develop an understanding of democratic processes and the importance of having a voice within a community.
The Rule of Law	The Rule of Law is promoted in Design and Technology through the consistent application of health and safety rules, procedures and expectations. Pupils learn the importance of using tools, equipment and materials safely and responsibly, understanding that rules are in place to protect themselves and others. They develop an awareness of legal requirements that influence product design and manufacture, such as safety standards, copyright and environmental regulations. By following instructions, assessing risks and taking responsibility for their actions, pupils gain an understanding of the importance of laws and regulations both in the classroom and in the wider world.
Individual Liberty	Individual liberty is promoted in Design and Technology by encouraging pupils to make their own choices and express their creativity through the design process. Pupils are given opportunities to develop their own ideas, select materials and techniques, and solve problems independently while working within clear safety guidelines. DT helps pupils build confidence, take responsibility for their decisions and understand that they have the freedom to innovate and create while respecting the rights and opinions of others. Through this, pupils develop independence, resilience and self-belief.
Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs	Design and Technology promotes mutual respect and tolerance by encouraging pupils to work collaboratively, listen to different viewpoints and value the contributions of others. Through designing products for a range of users, pupils learn to consider diverse needs, cultures, traditions and beliefs. They are encouraged to appreciate how products and technologies can be adapted to meet the requirements of different communities and individuals. DT helps pupils develop empathy, respect for diversity and an understanding that different perspectives can lead to more creative and effective design solutions.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Education

At The Cornwall Independent School, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) education is at the heart of our values and ethos. We believe in nurturing the whole child and encouraging every pupil to develop respect for themselves, others and the world around them. Through our commitment to kindness, empathy, integrity and responsibility, we foster a supportive and inclusive community where everyone feels valued and empowered to thrive.

We encourage pupils to embrace diversity, demonstrate tolerance, build resilience and reflect on their experiences and actions. By promoting these qualities, we help our young people become confident, compassionate and active citizens who are well prepared for life in modern Britain and able to make positive progress in every aspect of their learning and personal development.

Design and Technology (DT) makes a valuable contribution to pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development through practical, creative and collaborative learning experiences. DT encourages pupils to explore ideas, solve real-world problems and consider the impact of design decisions on individuals, communities and the wider environment. Through designing, making and evaluating products, pupils develop creativity, resilience, teamwork and an appreciation of diverse cultures and perspectives. The subject provides meaningful opportunities for pupils to reflect on their values, understand ethical issues, work effectively with others and recognise how design and technology shape the world around them.

Spiritual	Students' spiritual development involves the growth of their sense of self, their unique potential, their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, and their will to achieve. As their curiosity about themselves and their place in the world increases, they try to answer for themselves some of life's fundamental questions. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to foster their own inner lives and non-material wellbeing	Spiritual development in Design and Technology is fostered through opportunities for creativity, imagination and reflection. Pupils are encouraged to develop and express their own ideas, appreciate the achievements of designers and inventors, and reflect on how design and technology can improve people's lives. Through the process of creating products and solving real-world problems, pupils experience a sense of achievement, develop curiosity about the world around them and gain a deeper understanding of their own values, talents and aspirations. This helps pupils build confidence, resilience and a sense of personal fulfilment.
Moral	Students' moral development involves students acquiring an understanding of the difference between right and wrong and of moral conflict, a concern for others and the will to do what is right. They are able and willing to reflect on the consequences of their actions and learn how to forgive themselves and others. They develop the knowledge, skills and understanding, qualities and attitudes they need in order to make responsible moral decisions and act on them.	Moral development in Design and Technology is promoted by encouraging pupils to consider the impact of their design decisions on individuals, society and the environment. Pupils learn to make responsible choices when selecting materials, resources and manufacturing processes, considering issues such as sustainability, waste and ethical production. They are encouraged to evaluate products critically, discuss moral dilemmas and understand the importance of health and safety when designing and making. Through these experiences, pupils develop a sense of responsibility, fairness and respect for the wellbeing of others and the wider world.

Social	Students' social development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of the responsibilities and rights of being members of families and communities (local, national and global), and an ability to relate to others and to work with others for the common good. They display a sense of belonging and an increasing willingness to participate. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to make an active contribution to the democratic process in each of their communities.	Social development in Design and Technology is encouraged through collaborative learning, teamwork and effective communication. Pupils work together to share ideas, solve problems and evaluate products, developing skills such as cooperation, negotiation and leadership. DT provides opportunities for pupils to understand the needs of different users and communities, helping them to develop empathy and social awareness. By working respectfully with others and contributing to group projects, pupils learn how to build positive relationships and become responsible members of society.
Cultural	Students' cultural development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of cultural traditions and an ability to appreciate and respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences. They acquire a respect for their own culture and that of others, an interest in others' ways of doing things and curiosity about differences. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to understand, appreciate and contribute to culture.	Cultural development in Design and Technology is promoted through the exploration of products, designers and technological innovations from a wide range of cultures and historical periods. Pupils develop an appreciation of how culture, traditions and beliefs influence design and the way products are created and used around the world. Through investigating and evaluating diverse design styles, materials and manufacturing techniques, pupils gain a greater understanding of cultural diversity and its impact on society. DT encourages pupils to respect and celebrate different cultural perspectives while drawing inspiration from them in their own design work.

Design and Technology plays a significant role in promoting both the Fundamental British Values (FBV) and pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development. Through designing, making, evaluating and problem-solving, pupils develop creativity, independence, responsibility and respect for others. They learn to work collaboratively, appreciate diverse perspectives and consider the impact of their decisions on society and the environment. By embedding FBV and SMSC throughout the curriculum, DT helps prepare pupils to become confident, respectful and responsible individuals who are well equipped to contribute positively to life in modern Britain.