DESIGNING

Year Group	Generating Ideas	Planning & Designing	Technical Knowledge	Evaluating & Improving
EYFS	Explore ideas through play and investigation.	Talk about what they would like to make.	Recognise that products are designed for a purpose.	Talk about what works well.
Year 1	Generate ideas from existing products.	Draw simple designs and explain choices.	Understand that products are made to meet needs.	Describe successful features.
Year 2	Develop ideas using observations and experiences.	Create labelled sketches.	Understand that designs can be adapted and improved.	Suggest simple improvements.
Year 3	Develop ideas using research and discussion.	Create detailed plans and annotated sketches.	Understand the importance of purpose and user.	Evaluate ideas against success criteria.
Year 4	Generate a range of possible solutions.	Present ideas clearly using sketches and diagrams.	Recognise constraints and design requirements.	Refine designs following evaluation.
Year 5	Develop innovative ideas from research.	Produce clear and detailed design proposals.	Understand how products meet user needs.	Evaluate ideas and improve them systematically.
Year 6	Develop original and purposeful solutions.	Create detailed designs considering purpose, user and function.	Analyse successful design features in existing products.	Refine and justify design decisions independently.

MAKING

Year Group	Selecting Materials	Using Tools	Constructing Products	Evaluating & Improving
EYFS	Explore a variety of materials.	Use simple tools safely.	Combine materials through play.	Talk about finished products.
Year 1	Choose materials for simple purposes.	Use scissors, glue spreaders and hole punches appropriately.	Build simple structures and products.	Identify parts they like.
Year 2	Select suitable materials with support.	Use tools with increasing accuracy.	Assemble products securely.	Identify parts to improve.
Year 3	Choose materials based on properties.	Use tools safely and accurately.	Construct products following plans.	Evaluate effectiveness of construction.

Year 4	Select materials for strength and appearance.	Demonstrate increasing precision.	Construct products accurately.	Refine products after testing.
Year 5	Select materials independently.	Demonstrate control and precision.	Create high-quality products.	Improve products through testing.
Year 6	Make informed choices about materials and components.	Work accurately and safely using a range of tools.	Create products with precision and quality.	Refine products continuously throughout manufacture.

EVALUATING

Year Group	Progression
EYFS	Talk about what they have made.
Year 1	Explain which features they like.
Year 2	Identify strengths and simple improvements.
Year 3	Evaluate products against design intentions.
Year 4	Test products and identify improvements.
Year 5	Evaluate effectiveness against success criteria.
Year 6	Critically evaluate products and justify modifications using technical language.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

Year Group	Progression
EYFS	Explore how products are made and used.
Year 1	Understand that products have different purposes.
Year 2	Understand how materials influence the success of products.
Year 3	Understand how structures and mechanisms function.
Year 4	Apply technical understanding to improve products.
Year 5	Explain how design decisions influence function.
Year 6	Apply technical knowledge confidently when designing and making products.

STRUCTURES

Year Group	Progression
EYFS	Explore building and joining materials.
Year 1	Construct simple freestanding structures.
Year 2	Investigate strength, stiffness and stability.
Year 3	Build and reinforce shell structures.
Year 4	Create frame structures with improving accuracy.
Year 5	Design structures that consider function and appearance.
Year 6	Design and construct complex structures using strengthening techniques.

MECHANISMS

Year Group	Progression
EYFS	Explore moving toys and objects.
Year 1	Investigate sliders and levers.
Year 2	Design and make products using sliders and levers.
Year 3	Explore linkages within moving products.
Year 4	Design products using lever and linkage systems.
Year 5	Investigate gears, pulleys and cams.
Year 6	Apply knowledge of mechanical systems to solve design problems.

ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

Year Group	Progression
EYFS	Explore battery-operated toys and devices.
Year 1	Recognise products that use electricity.

Year 2	Identify simple electrical components.
Year 3	Understand the role of components within simple circuits.
Year 4	Construct and use simple electrical circuits.
Year 5	Incorporate electrical systems into functional products.
Year 6	Design products using electrical components to meet specific purposes.

TEXTILES

Year Group	Progression
EYFS	Explore fabrics, weaving and threading.
Year 1	Use simple joining techniques.
Year 2	Use running stitch and simple decoration.
Year 3	Join fabrics accurately using a range of stitches.
Year 4	Use fastening techniques and decorative elements.
Year 5	Design and create products for particular users.
Year 6	Develop textile products that demonstrate precision and quality.

COOKING & NUTRITION

Year Group	Progression
EYFS	Explore foods through preparation and tasting.
Year 1	Prepare simple foods safely.
Year 2	Understand basic principles of healthy eating.
Year 3	Understand where food comes from and seasonality.
Year 4	Prepare ingredients safely using appropriate techniques.
Year 5	Adapt recipes with consideration for nutrition.
Year 6	Plan, prepare and evaluate dishes while applying nutritional knowledge.

DIGITAL WORLD

Year Group	Progression
EYFS	Explore technology through play.
Year 1	Use simple digital tools to support design activities.
Year 2	Use technology to record and communicate ideas.
Year 3	Use computer-aided design tools to create designs.
Year 4	Understand how technology can improve products.
Year 5	Incorporate digital systems within design projects.
Year 6	Design products that make purposeful use of digital technologies.

VOCABULARY PROGRESSION

EYFS

build, make, join, cut, stick, design, product, material, tool

KS1

structure, user, purpose, lever, slider, evaluate, assemble, fabric

Lower KS2

mechanism, stability, strengthen, prototype, function, component, circuit, frame

Upper KS2

criteria, specification, innovation, manufacture, electrical system, pulley, gear, sustainability, efficiency