Design and Technology at Alexandra Primary School – Our Intentions:

Design is often associated with the way something appears. However, Design and Technology within education is focused on the way in which learners' study, investigate and think creatively about how products are made. Design and Technology is fundamentally about converting ideas and materials into the products and services that we all need and use in our everyday lives. This subject plays a vital role in education, as it the key to the modern world and global industries. Since its introduction to the National Curriculum, Design and Technology provides pupils of all ages with opportunities to explore ideas; to design and make things to solve problems. In doing this, pupils learn how to use tools and equipment to create designs and work with a range of materials.

Design and Technology skills that we develop at APS include:

Design – Through creative and practical activities, pupils form functional and appealing products for themselves and other users based on design criteria.

Make – Whilst adhering to safety and hygiene procedures, pupils use tools and equipment suitable for task; including construction materials, food ingredients, mechanical and electrical components.

Evaluate – Analysis and exploration is encouraged for pupils to evaluate their product against their design criteria and consider ways to improve their work.

Technical knowledge – Pupils express their understanding of materials and components, functional properties, aesthetic qualities and how they work.

Design and Technology lessons at APS provide children with practical and creative learning experiences. The skills learnt draw on disciplines across the curriculum such as: Science, Maths, Computing and Art.

Aspire: DT inspires learners and allows pupils to explore, be inquisitive, problem solve, be innovative, construct, create and evaluate their own product designs. We have high aspirations for all pupils to achieve to the best of their ability and share their talents in this area.

Perform: Design and Technology at APS facilitates learners to prepare for the developing world. For children to perform well in this subject, we provide the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge in: design, structures, mechanisms, textiles, electrical systems, food, cooking and nutrition.

Succeed: Through DT, learners combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetic, social and environmental matters. A final product / outcome is produced and then evaluated so that the success can be analysed and celebrated.

In order for this to happen, we use a number of strategies which include:

- Opportunities for learners to **deepen** their **understanding** via **cross curricular links**.
- Occasions **for speaking and listening** and **collaborative work**.
- Workshops.
- Providing resources and materials for pupils to work with.
- Implementing activities which involve **investigation** and **problem solving**.
- Pinpointing contexts that children find **motivating** and **relevant** – giving learning a sense of **direction** and **purpose**.

In order for our children to **Aspire**, **Perform** and **Succeed** in Design and Technology, we encourage creative thinkers who are willing to take risks. We want our learners to have the confidence to create and develop their ideas; to gain as much hands-on experience in designing quality, purposeful products useful in the wider world.