

Design & Technology
Progression in language and key vocabulary

This table shows how learning across the age groups develops and uses the language of Design & Technology. The selected terminology is a brief minimum that might feature in the planning of Design & Technology and can contribute to coherent progression. The lists are cumulative – begin on the left and move right. The key question here is not ‘do the pupils know the words?’ but ‘Can the pupils use the language to explain their knowledge and understanding?’

	EYFS	Year 1 & 2	Year 3 & 4	Year 5 & 6
Design, Make, Evaluate	draw, picture, use, change, experiment, tools, materials, idea, improve	design, make, evaluate, user, purpose, design criteria, product, function features, suitable, quality mock-up, template, pattern pieces, mark out, join, decorate, finish	design brief, decision, evaluating, innovative, prototype, model, annotated sketch, functional, investigate, label, drawing, aesthetics, appealing	design decisions, functionality, innovation, authentic, design specification prototype, annotated sketch, innovation, research, functional, evaluate, mock-up,
Mechanisms/Mechanical structures	pull, push, up, down, move	slider, lever, pivot, slot, bridge/guide card, masking tape, paper fastener, join straight, curve, forwards, backwards vehicle, wheel, axle, axle holder, chassis, body, cab assembling, cutting, joining, shaping, finishing, fixed, free, moving, mechanism names of tools, equipment and materials used	mechanism, lever, linkage, pivot, slot, bridge, guide system, input, process, output linear, rotary, oscillating, reciprocating user, purpose, function prototype, design criteria, innovative, appealing,	pulley, drive belt, gear, rotation, spindle, driver, follower, ratio, transmit, axle, motor circuit, switch, circuit diagram annotated drawings, exploded diagrams mechanical system, electrical system, input, process, output

Structures	cut, fold, join, fix	structure, wall, tower, framework, weak, strong, base, top, underneath, side, edge, surface, thinner, thicker, corner, point, straight, curved metal, wood, plastic circle, triangle, square, rectangle, cuboid, cube, cylinder	shell structure, three-dimensional (3-D) shape, net, cube, cuboid, prism, vertex, edge, face, length, width, breadth, capacity marking out, scoring, shaping, tabs, adhesives, joining, assemble, accuracy, material, stiff, strong, reduce, reuse, recycle, corrugating, ribbing, laminating font, lettering, text, graphics	frame structure, stiffen, strengthen, reinforce, triangulation, stability, shape, join, temporary, permanent
Food	food, meal, snack, healthy, diet	fruit and vegetable names, names of equipment and utensils sensory vocabulary e.g. soft, juicy, crunchy, sweet, sticky, smooth, sharp, crisp, sour, hard flesh, skin, seed, pip, core, slicing, peeling, cutting, squeezing, healthy diet, choosing, ingredients, investigating tasting, arranging, popular,	name of products, names of equipment, utensils, techniques and ingredients texture, taste, sweet, sour, hot, spicy, appearance, smell, preference, greasy, moist, cook, fresh, savoury hygienic, edible, grown, reared, caught, frozen, tinned, processed, seasonal, harvested healthy/varied diet	ingredients, yeast, dough, bran, flour, wholemeal, unleavened, baking soda, spice, herbs fat, sugar, carbohydrate, protein, vitamins, nutrients, nutrition, healthy, varied, gluten, dairy, allergy, intolerance, savoury, source, seasonality utensils, combine, fold, knead, stir, pour, mix, rubbing in, whisk, beat, roll out, shape, sprinkle, crumble
Textiles	touch, feel, items of clothing	names of existing products, joining and finishing techniques, tools, fabrics and components	fabric, names of fabrics, fastening, compartment, zip, button, structure, finishing technique, strength, weakness, stiffening,	seam, seam allowance, wadding, reinforce, right side, wrong side, hem, template, pattern pieces name of textiles and fastenings used, pins, needles, thread,

			templates, stitch, seam, seam allowance	pinking shears, fastenings, iron transfer paper
Electrical systems			series circuit, fault, connection, toggle switch, push-to-make switch, push-to-break switch, battery, battery holder, bulb, bulb holder, wire, insulator, conductor, crocodile clip control, program, system, input device, output device	series circuit, parallel circuit, names of switches and components, input device, output device, system, monitor, control, program, flowchart