

Having recently become a Church of England Academy, Archbishop Holgate's School has ambitious plans for the future. In particular, teachers want to optimise their teaching practices to ensure pupils reach their full potential. The school has a strong ethos, focusing on values, care, and achievement. 'This is a school where every child does matter', reports Ofsted. Archbishop Holgate's has introduced Autodesk® software to design and engineering pupils of all ages to help them learn skills relevant to industry.

The challenge

Teacher Steve Parkinson wanted to introduce Autodesk software to his Year 7 classes in the simplest way possible. He needed a software program that would be intuitive and easy to use. Ideally, it would act as a springboard to engage the class with 3D computer aided design (CAD) and encourage them to begin using more advanced Autodesk software from an early age.

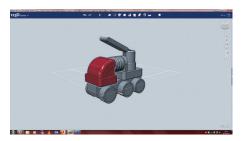
The solution

Parkinson selected Autodesk® Inventor® Design software as an appropriate learning tool for Year 7. His pupils worked on a 'plan toy' project, using Inventor Design to design a sustainable toy. Most students created toys that took the form of vehicles comprised of geometric blocks. When assembled, these blocks came to life as fire engines, spaceships, and futuristic transportation devices.

The results

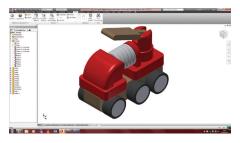
With Inventor Design software, Parkinson's Year 7 pupils were able to create remarkably high-quality toys. This boosted their confidence and helped them to learn the fundamentals of using Autodesk® software,

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including menus, layouts, and processes. In this way, the students developed useful, transferable skills, which accelerated their speed of learning. Many pupils were inspired to download and explore different types of Inventor software at home.

Importantly, Inventor Design provided an effective platform from which to begin using Autodesk® Inventor software. Parkinson believes that using Inventor Design for just three hours reduces the time it takes to learn Autodesk Inventor proficiently at a later date. It's an ideal stepping stone for beginners to learn in bite-sized chunks and offers a good grounding in basic 3D modelling principles. This makes his classes' progression to Inventor all the more rewarding.







'As a teacher, it is key to see pupils enjoying and benefiting from using something and Autodesk software is a way in which design and simulations and communication is made better than if they were not using this software. This software will seriously enhance the quality of design and engineering in education and create designers and engineers more prepared for work in industry.'

Steve Parkinson Archbishop Holgate's School North Yorkshire, United Kingdom

The following Autodesk product was used in this project:

Autodesk Inventor

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