

- Textiles are **flexible materials** woven from fibres.
- In your prior learning, you should have learnt that textiles are used to make clothing, sheets, carpets, rugs and a wide variety of other products.
- Lots of materials are considered as textiles, such as silk, wool, cotton, felt and polyester.
- You will also know that fabrics can be **joined** in a number of ways, including using a range of **sewing techniques**.
- Textile designers and makers can use **stitches** and other techniques to add **aesthetic appeal** to their products.
- They can also add a number of features to improve the product's **functionality**, such as a range of **fasteners** (e.g clasps, ties, buttons, zips and Velcro).

#### Key vocabulary

Aesthetics	The way a product looks
Appliqué	To attach a decorative fabric item
Design	To come up with and develop ideas for a product
Embroider	To decorate fabric with stitches
Fasteners	A device that closes or secures something
Functionality	The quality of being suited to serve a purpose well
Mock-up	A model which allows you to try out different ideas
Properties	Anything that describes a material
Sew	To join pieces of fabric with stitches
Template	A shape drawn to help with cutting out shapes
Tie-dye	To produce patterns by tying parts of fabric to shield it from the dye

#### Types of stitch

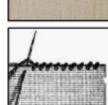
**Running Stitch** – This is the simplest stitch. It creates a dotted line effect. Remember to leave a space from the previous stitch.



**Back Stitch** – Similar to the running stitch, except that the thread doubles back so that there is no visible spacing between stitches. It is a very strong and secure stitch.



**Over Sew Stitch** – The over sew stitch is a good way to neaten the raw edge of fabrics. It involves sewing over the edge of the fabrics.



**Blanket Stitch** – Another way to reinforce the edges of thick materials. This stitch is popular as it is thought to be aesthetically-pleasing.



#### Example textiles



##### Clothes

Can be made with cotton/polyester

Embroidered using a number of different stitching techniques

- A wide range of clothes, including those found in high-end fashion chains, contain embroidery patterns, pictures and designs.
- Floral patterns are particularly popular.
- Many clothes (including the dress on the left), are made of polyester. It is very resilient and can stand a good deal of wear and tear. It also holds colour well.
- Several advanced stitching techniques are often used, including stem stitches for outlines (particularly effective for the individual leaves and stems), and satin stitches for filling in shapes (e.g the flowers).



##### Bags and satchels

Made from synthetic fabrics, with a leather strap

Decorated using tie-dye

Zip fastener

- Bags and satchels can be made from a variety of materials. It is important that materials are strong enough to bear the weight of a bag's contents. Leather, cotton and polyester are all often used.
- The tie-dye technique has been used to create vivid colours on this bag, whilst a zip has been joined to the top of the bag as a fastener. This helps to keep the contents safe and secure in the bag but allows the user easy access when needed.

#### Health and safety

- Tie back long hair
- Remove jewellery
- Walk carefully around the classroom
- When using a needle, keep your fingers clear. You can also use a thimble
- When you are not using your needle, keep it in the same safe place
- Listen to the teacher's instructions carefully
- When you need to move with scissors, hold around the closed blades, facing down

