

Primary Art and Design Curriculum Statement

Rationale

Art and Design at our school provides all pupils with a powerful means of communication, expression, and exploration.

For many of our learners, art is not just a creative outlet—it is a vital medium for emotional regulation, sensory engagement, and self-identity.

Our Art and Design curriculum is built on the belief that every child is an artist, and that creativity should be accessible to all, regardless of ability or communication style. It enables pupils to develop fine motor skills, make choices, and take pride in their work through hands-on, visual, and sensory experiences.

Why Art and Design?

- It supports communication and emotional expression, especially for pupils with limited verbal skills.
- It develops fine and gross motor control, coordination, and focus.
- It strengthens visual-spatial awareness, planning, and sequencing skills.
- It promotes self-esteem, independence, and resilience through creative success.
- It provides sensory experiences that engage and calm, supporting emotional regulation.
- It encourages cultural understanding and appreciation through exploration of global artists and traditions.

Why this approach?

- Lessons are multisensory, practical, and inclusive, allowing all learners to participate meaningfully.
- Pupils work with a wide range of media—paint, clay, textiles, collage, digital art—to develop exploration and creativity.
- The curriculum follows a spiral structure, revisiting key artistic concepts (colour, line, texture, form, and pattern) across themes to ensure deep understanding and confidence.
- Cross-curricular links (e.g., history, geography, science, and PSHE) provide meaningful contexts and reinforce learning across subjects.
- Learning environments celebrate art as a core part of school life through displays, exhibitions, and community projects.

Art at our school helps pupils see beauty in the world, express who they are, and develop the skills to share their ideas in creative, confident, and joyful ways.

Intent

Our intent is to deliver an Art and Design curriculum that:

- Encourages creativity, imagination, and expression through a range of media.
- Develops pupils' ability to experiment, plan, and evaluate their ideas and outcomes.
- Builds knowledge of artists, craftspeople, and designers from different times and cultures.

- Provides opportunities for sensory exploration and fine motor development.
- Encourages pupils to take pride in their achievements and communicate ideas visually.
- Promotes collaboration, confidence, and independence in creative contexts.

National Curriculum Links (KS1–KS2):

- Use a range of materials creatively to design and make products.
- Use drawing, painting, and sculpture to develop and share ideas and imagination.
- Develop a wide range of art and design techniques in colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form, and space.
- Learn about great artists, architects, and designers in history.

Implementation

Art and Design is delivered through a creative, cross-curricular, and inclusive approach.

Each topic connects art to wider themes to make learning meaningful, memorable, and relevant.

We ensure that:

- Lessons are practical, exploratory, and hands-on, with strong sensory engagement.
- Teaching includes modelling, demonstration, and guided practice.
- Pupils are encouraged to experiment with materials before refining ideas.
- Resources are adapted to meet individual sensory and motor needs.
- Key artistic vocabulary (e.g., *shape*, *texture*, *pattern*, *tone*) is introduced through visuals, symbols, and repetition.
- Pupils explore famous artists and diverse cultural traditions, linking their work to personal projects.
- Sketchbooks, portfolios, or photo evidence capture creative progress rather than written work alone.
- Cross-curricular links are built into each theme—for example:
 - Science: materials, light, and colour
 - Geography: landscapes and world art
 - History: historical crafts and cultural design
 - PSHE: emotions, teamwork, identity

Teachers scaffold learning using step-by-step visual guides, word mats, sensory prompts, and clear routines to ensure accessibility and consistency.

Impact

By the end of their primary journey, pupils will:

- Show confidence and enjoyment in expressing themselves creatively.
- Use tools, materials, and techniques with increasing control and independence.
- Recognise and talk about features of their own and others' artwork.
- Identify and discuss the work of key artists and styles.

- Demonstrate understanding of how art links to culture, history, and emotion.
- Take pride in sharing and displaying their creative achievements.

Success is measured through:

- Observation of engagement, participation, and creative risk-taking.
- Pupil voice and reflection (“What do you like about your art?”).
- Evidence in sketchbooks, displays, and photographic records.
- Development in fine motor skills, confidence, and expressive communication.

Our Art and Design curriculum ensures that all pupils leave primary school having experienced joy, success, and expression through creative exploration — building foundations for lifelong appreciation of art and creativity.

In Summary

Art and Design at our school celebrates every learner as an artist.

It enables pupils to explore the world through colour, texture, and imagination, providing a safe and inspiring space to communicate, create, and connect with others.

Our curriculum develops skills, confidence, and self-expression, helping every child to see that their creativity matters.