

Art and Design at St Michael's School

At St Michael's we want our children to have a love of art and have an understanding that art, craft and design embody some of the highest forms of human creativity.

Intent

Our curriculum engages, inspires and challenges pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design. By exposing the children to a wide range of art experiences and skills we show them that they can use art to express themselves and create works that may be enjoyed by others. We want them to appreciate art in all its forms and have the confidence to express their likes and dislikes.

Our curriculum is designed to be broad and balanced to allow children to take inspiration from great artists throughout history. We want children not to be held back by a perceived lack of skill, but to understand that art takes many forms from sculpture to collage, photography and graphic design.

We achieve this by providing a rich, diverse curriculum, underpinned by our school's core values of Respect, Honesty and Love, enabling every member of the school community to have a 'Lifetime Love for Learning'.

Implementation

Our Art curriculum is structured into key concepts: taking inspiration from the greats, generating ideas, making (the skills of art, craft and design), evaluation, knowledge and understanding. The skills involved include drawing, painting, collage, printing and working in 3D. Throughout their Art and Design journey at school, children revisit these concepts to build on prior knowledge and skills, ensuring that they have the opportunity to make links and develop their understanding. We believe that it is these concepts that help children and teachers to understand what being an artist and designer is all about.

In EYFS, children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts. This allows them to experiment and understand a rich variety of media and materials, as well as developing their own self-expression, vocabulary and responses. As well as focused Access Art projects throughout the year, the children have daily opportunities to engage with high quality media and materials to explore collage, colour mixing, clay sculptures and patterns as well as drawing in ways which are meaningful for them.

In KS1 children are introduced to using sketchbooks and complete three Access art termly projects. Alongside this, purposefully resourced Continuous Provision areas allow children regular and frequent opportunities to rehearse, practice and embed new skills and techniques in ways that are underpinned by their own ideas.

In KS2, the children continue to revisit and master the techniques of sculpture, drawing, painting, collage and printing, through carefully chosen Access Art pathways. This is to ensure the progression of practical skills and the retention of knowledge to their long-term memory.

In all Art lessons, specifically chosen artists, artisans or designers are introduced to the children including relevant local artists where possible which inspire them to develop their

own ideas from the visual information they have collected. This is explored and developed in sketchbooks. This provides the starting point for their rich and varied vocabulary, which not only encompasses a far-reaching knowledge of the greats, but also enables children to comment on their own work as well as that of others.

Teachers are provided with a Curriculum Map and Knowledge Webs to ensure all children are progressing in their art, craft and design knowledge and skills. The Knowledge Webs identify what knowledge and skills to assess and how to do this.

Our countryside location provides children with opportunities to go out into the school environment as well as the village to record ideas in their sketchbooks using a variety of media. We have close links with local artists who offer their time to come into school to share their knowledge, skills and experience with the children. This not only develops their own skills and techniques but also brings to life the fact that children can visualise themselves as an artist or designer in the 'real world'.

Regular 'whole school days' include opportunities for the children to collaborate with other key stages to create pieces of art using nature as a material, or share their expertise in a particular technique. Children in KS1 and KS2 have had the opportunity to enjoy the 'Take One Picture' project and the 'Big Draw'.

Impact

Art contributes to children's personal development in creativity, independence, judgement and self-reflection. It encourages children to develop a sense of ownership over their work and reflect on their experiences through evaluating their progress and development. Children appreciate artistic opportunities offered to them in the school, both within the curriculum lessons and the extra opportunities offered to them through visits and projects. These enriching experiences help extend the children's cultural capital and provide an aspiration for their artistic endeavours.