
OUR LADY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ART AND DESIGN POLICY

Aims and objectives

Art and design stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences, and a special way of understanding and responding to the world. It enables children to communicate what they see, feel and think, using colour, texture, form, pattern and different materials and processes. Children become involved in shaping their environments through art and design activities. They learn to make informed judgements, and aesthetic and practical decisions. They explore ideas and meanings through the work of artists and designers. Through learning about the roles and functions of art, they can explore the impact it has had on contemporary life and on different periods and cultures. The appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts enrich all our lives.

Our objectives in the teaching of art and design are:

- To produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
- To become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques
- To evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design
- To know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms

Teaching and learning

The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in art and design lessons. Our principal aim is to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding. We ensure that the act of investigating and making something includes exploring and developing ideas and evaluating and developing work. We do this best through a mixture of whole-class teaching and individual or group activities. Teachers draw attention to good examples of individual performance as models for the other children. They encourage children to evaluate their own ideas and methods, and the work of others, and to say what they think and feel about them. We give children the opportunity to work by themselves and in collaboration with others, on projects in two and three dimensions, and at different scales. Children also have the opportunity to use a wide range of materials and resources, including Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

We recognise the fact that we have children of differing ability in all our classes, and we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this through a range of strategies:

setting tasks that are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
sometimes grouping children by ability, and setting different tasks for each group;
providing a range of challenges with different resources;
having more adults support the work of individual children or small groups;

Art and design curriculum planning

Art and design is a foundation subject in the National Curriculum. We use the national programmes of study as the basis for our curriculum planning in art and design.

We carry out the curriculum planning in art and design in line with a scheme bought in by school which identifies three phases: long-term, medium-term and short-term. Our yearly curriculum maps demonstrate where art is taught across topic work or as part of projects. Our subject leader devises this plan in conjunction with teaching colleagues in each year group.

We plan the activities in art and design so that they build on the children's prior learning and all sessions are designed to enhance skills. While we give children of all abilities the opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding, we also plan progression into the scheme of work, so that there is an increasing challenge for the children as they move up through the school.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

We encourage creative work in Early Years classes, as this is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum. We relate the children's creative development to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals, which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. The children's learning includes art, music, dance, role-play and imaginative play. The range of experience encourages children to make connections between one area of learning and another, and so extends their understanding.

We provide a rich environment in which we encourage and value creativity. Children are engaged in a wide range of activities, and their responses involve the various senses. We give them the opportunity to work alongside artists and other adults. The activities that they take part in are imaginative and enjoyable.

Contribution of art and design to teaching in other curriculum areas

English

Art and design contributes to the teaching of English in our school by encouraging children to ask and answer questions about the starting points for their work. They have the opportunity to compare ideas, methods and approaches in their own work and that of other children, and to say what they think and feel about them.

Mathematics

Art and design contributes to children's mathematical understanding by giving opportunities to develop the children's understanding of shape and space through work in two and three dimensions.