
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
- To research and evaluate existing products available and create products for a purpose.

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. 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.

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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.

The medium-term plans (S Plans) sequence the learning intentions into cohesive steps to ensure progression and coverage of the key objectives.

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

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, Art and Design is taught through the area of learning Expressive Arts and Design. Our approach recognises that young children learn best through play, exploration and first-hand experiences, and that creativity is a vital part of early development.

Children are provided with frequent opportunities to explore a wide range of materials, tools and techniques in a safe, supportive and stimulating environment. Through planned and child-initiated activities, pupils are encouraged to experiment, make choices, express their ideas and feelings, and develop their imagination and creativity.

Art and Design in EYFS supports the development of the Characteristics of Effective Learning, particularly:

- Playing and exploring – investigating materials and media
- Active learning – persisting with creative tasks and taking pride in achievements
- Creating and thinking critically – developing ideas, problem-solving and making links

Teaching and learning focuses on the EYFS Expressive Arts and Design Early Learning Goals, enabling children to:

- Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques
- Experiment with colour, texture, form and function
- Share their creations, explaining the processes they have used
- Make use of props and materials to develop their own ideas, imagination and role play

Staff model the use of vocabulary related to art and design and encourage children to talk about their work and the work of others. Children are introduced to a range of artists, styles and cultural influences in an age-appropriate way, helping them to develop an early appreciation of creativity and diversity.

Contribution of art and design to teaching in other curriculum areas

Art and Design plays an important role in supporting and enriching learning across the wider curriculum. Through creative activities, pupils are encouraged to make connections between subjects, helping them to develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

English

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Pupils use discussion to share ideas, evaluate their own and others' work, and develop subject-specific vocabulary. Opportunities for speaking, listening and writing are embedded through artist studies, sketchbook annotations and reflective evaluation.

Mathematics

Art and design contributes to children's mathematical understanding through the exploration of shape, pattern, symmetry, scale and proportion. Pupils apply mathematical skills when measuring, mixing materials, working with geometry, and creating repeating patterns or tessellations.

History and Geography

Pupils study artwork from different periods, cultures and locations. This helps them to understand historical contexts, cultural diversity and how art reflects time, place and society. Pupils explore local artists and landscapes to strengthen their sense of place.

PHSE

The Curriculum provides opportunities for self-expression, emotional development and collaboration. Pupils learn to respect others' ideas, build confidence and resilience, and reflect on their own creativity.

Computing

Where appropriate, computing is used to support art learning through digital drawing, photography and design, helping pupils to develop digital creativity alongside traditional artistic skills.