



Art and Design Policy **2025**

Through Christ we believe, inspire, achieve.

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1. Curriculum Intent

At English Martyrs we believe that Art and Design is a unique subject and that a strong Art and Design curriculum should provide children with the opportunities to explore their own ideas and express their own individuality and personality in a safe and nurturing space.

Our curriculum aims to inspire pupils and develop their confidence to experiment and invent their own works of art. We want to give all pupils every opportunity to develop their ability, nurture their own individual talents and interests and to express their ideas and thoughts about the world, as well as learn about art and artists across cultures and through history.

2. Art and Design and the National Curriculum

At English Martyrs our curriculum ensures the progression of skills and the effective teaching of Art and Design as outlined in the National Curriculum. It is designed with five strands that run throughout each unit of work. These are:

- Substantive knowledge, including artists
- Disciplinary knowledge, including formal elements of art and design (line, shape, texture, colour, form, space and tone)
- Practical knowledge, including the generation of ideas and creating
- Using sketchbooks
- Evaluating & analysing

Through our curriculum, pupils have the opportunity to learn and practise skills discretely and then revisit them again and again with increasing complexity in a spiral curriculum model. This allows children pupils to revise and build on their previous learning. Following this model we will ensure that children:

- have lots of opportunities to explore their ideas, record their experiences and produce creative pieces of work that they can be proud of.
- become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design.
- know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of art forms

- evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design

3. Pupil Experiences

Here at English Martyrs, children will experience Art and Design both through discrete lessons, taught in units throughout the year, and within other subjects. It is understood that children need to develop a range of Art and Design skills in order to allow them to connect their own mind and emotions with the physical experiences of creating. Children are provided with a range of suitable, good quality resources and materials to help them develop their abilities and to work confidently and independently. It is also recognised how Art and Design can enrich other areas of the curriculum and, therefore, it is valued as a useful tool for learning in other subjects.

4. Rationale

At English Martyrs we want our students to experience a varied, inclusive and challenging curriculum and therefore the childrens' experiences of Art and Design reflect this. We aim to provide a range of stimuli that will engage, challenge and interest children with the intention of encouraging them to explore more challenging concepts and techniques, bolstering their confidence and developing their visual literacy. It is our intention that children will develop an appreciation of the work of other artists, begin to look critically at what they are presented with and to express and discuss their opinions in an articulate and respectful manner.

5. Equal Opportunities

Inclusion is at the centre of everything we do at English Martyrs. We recognise the varying needs of all our learners, and so differentiate activities where necessary and as appropriate, and ensure an appropriate level of challenge is carefully planned for during each Art and Design lesson.

Equal opportunities will be given to all children in respect of:

- Race
- Gender
- Culture
- Special Educational Needs

6. Monitoring arrangements

It is recognised that Art and Design is a unique subject, in that outcomes are different and unique to each individual. The progression of skills, however, needs to be clear across and within each Key Stage. Staff are familiar with the Progression of Skills in Art and Design, as expected in the National Curriculum and outlined in the Progression of Skills document and our Art and Design scheme ensures that these are taught in a clear and structured way.

Sketchbooks are recognised as an essential tool for tracking the creative journey of each child throughout their school year and the development of skills is also evident in these. Sketchbooks are regularly monitored and pupils are given the opportunity to present and talk about their work in these.

Annual reports for parents will include a statement for Art and Design included along with other foundation subjects.

7. Cross Curricular Links

Art and Design is recognised as a valuable tool for learning in other subjects. The use of sketchbooks is encouraged as a way of exploring and developing ideas across all subjects and staff are encouraged to adapt units of work to fit with other learning, provided the skills content remains.

8. Resources

- CUSP Website (subscription renewed yearly)
- Art cupboard to be audited re-stocked termly
- Staff to complete list of resources prior to teaching term's unit - Autumn (Blocks A and B), Spring (Blocks C & D) and Summer (Blocks E & F)

9. Health and Safety

Children will be shown how to use all Art and Design equipment safely and monitored whilst using any equipment that poses a risk to themselves.

Staff will refer to current Health and Safety practices, safety regulations and safeguarding requirements.

10. Monitoring of the Art and Design Policy

The Art and Design policy will be monitored as an ongoing document, in collaboration with the Head teacher and the senior leadership team.

11. Evaluation of Policy

The policy will be evaluated against certain criteria; insets undertaken by staff members, staff viewpoints and discussions, carried out by the co-ordinator and the Headteacher.