

ART DEPARTMENT

INTENT

At Oakfield Academy we believe that high-quality Art lessons will inspire pupils to think innovatively and develop their creative understanding. We believe that art contributes to a child's personal development and enables them to develop a natural sense of wonder and curiosity about the world about them.

Our art curriculum provides pupils with many opportunities to develop a range of skills using a variety of media and materials. Pupils will learn, amongst other examples, how to draw, paint, print, use the visual elements of colour, pattern and shape etc and to work in a variety of 3D mediums. An emphasis is put on exploring, experimenting and evaluating different creative ideas and pupils will be introduced to a range of artworks/art movements and develop knowledge of the styles and vocabulary used by famous artists. The skills they acquire in art are regularly applied to other areas of the curriculum, for example, by using comic strip techniques to explain the drama in Romeo and Juliet during English lessons, exploring Reggae in music and producing an artistic outcome to explain their research or using art as a medium to express emotion and thought in PSHE. Many areas of art link with mathematical ideas of shape and space; for example when designing repeating patterns or thinking about 3D shapes and proportions when making a figurative sculpture. It is crucial that art work be purposeful; be this as a means of expression or to explore the styles of other artists that inspire our own work. Pupils are clear what the intended outcomes are and have means and examples to measure their own work against this. In Art, pupils are expected to be reflective and evaluate their own work and the work of their peers, thinking about how they can make changes and keep improving. This is meaningful and continuous throughout the process, with evidence of verbal and written reflection. Pupils are encouraged to take risks and experiment and then reflect on why some ideas and techniques are successful or not for a particular project.

IMPLEMENTATION

In KS2 Pupils are taught to develop their techniques, including their control and their use of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design.

- They create sketch books to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas
- To improve their mastery of art and design techniques they are given wide opportunities to experiment with a variety of drawing and colouring mediums and a range of materials to create 3D artworks and sculpture.
- Each project is linked to an artist or art movement from across the world and throughout time.

In KS3 Pupils build on their KS2 experience to develop their creativity and ideas, and increase proficiency in their execution. They are given opportunities to develop a critical understanding of artists, architects and designers, and can express reasoned judgements that can inform their own work.

- Pupils use a range of techniques to record their observations in their sketchbooks as a basis for exploring their ideas and practise techniques.
- Pupils use a range of techniques and media, including painting, drawing, collage, mixed media, clay and mod-roc to increase their proficiency in the handling of different materials
- Pupils analyse and evaluate their own work, and that of others, in order to strengthen the visual impact or applications of their work
- Pupils learn about the history of art, craft, design and architecture, including periods, styles and major movements from ancient times up to the present day and from across the world.

Art is taught at KS3 by the Head of Art in the art studio. In KS 2 classes are taught by the HOD or KS2 teachers/tutors. Over the course of the 4 years all pupils have access to a large range of materials with which to experiment with and to develop mastery, including a variety of different types of paints, pastels, crayons etc and 3D materials like clay, mod-roc, and found objects. Pupils study art movements and artists from a wide range of periods and places. Previous learning from each year is built upon by continuous practise and experimentation whilst more complex new skills such as Lino printing or modelling in Mod-roc are introduced in the later years.

All pupils across the school are encouraged to enter local and national competitions, either during art lessons or as part of a whole school activity in tutor groups or as independent testers doing work at home.

All year groups have opportunities to go on either Art trips or take part in workshops with visiting artists such as the year 7 visit to Montacute house to learn about Tudor portraits or working with visiting artists on community projects like the Frome annual lantern parade. Art clubs are run throughout the year and visiting artist are invited to run projects such as the ceramic mural in the school yard made year 6 pupils.

IMPACT

Pupils enjoy the self-expression that they experience in Art and Design and are always keen to learn new skills and work hard to perfect those shown to them. Pupils art is very often cross-curricular and evidence can be seen across the school in classrooms and performances and it helps them to express feelings and emotions, as well as show their knowledge and understanding in other subjects. Through their art and design, pupils are able to reach out into the community, through workshops community projects and competitions. Our Art Curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression and the building up of new skills. In addition, we measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

Pupils self evaluate and peer assess their work constantly and are encouraged in every lesson to understand where and how they need to improve and to celebrate their successes.

Pupils are constantly building upon previous learning each year at the same time as learning new skills. Knowledge is tested by regular retrieval quizzes, questioning or practical tasks whilst the development of their physical skills is evaluated with feed forward through self, peer and teacher written and verbal feedback.

Pupils learn life skills such as investigation, planning, construction, evaluation, designing, working as a team, working through problems, perseverance, the importance of practise to develop expertise etc. Pupils are therefore prepared through their art lessons with skills that are transferable into future work and life.

Whilst not all pupils may take art as a subject or as an extra curricular interest past year 8, the aim is to install a life long love, understanding and curiosity for art and a desire to have art embedded into their lives.

Art and Photography GCSE have one of the highest high uptakes by pupils when the options are chosen in year 8. Art clubs, art trips and workshops are always popular and often oversubscribed.