

# ELEMENTS OF THE ART CURRICULUM

CRITICAL & CONTEXTUAL UNDERSTANDING	REFINING AND EXPLORING OWN WORK	PRACTICAL SKILLS	DEVELOPING IDEAS	HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT (PERSONAL, SOCIAL, MORAL & CULTURAL)
ELEMENT REFERENCE: ACC	ELEMENT REFERENCE: ACR	ELEMENT REFERENCE: ACP	ELEMENT REFERENCE: ACD	ELEMENT REFERENCE: ACH
AO1, AO4	AO2 & AO3	AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4	AO1, AO2, AO3	AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4
Assessed through: KNOWLEDGE EFFORT	Assessed through: KNOWLEDGE EFFORT	Assessed through: SKILL EFFORT	Assessed through: SKILL KNOWLEDGE EFFORT	Assessed through: SKILL KNOWLEDGE EFFORT
<p><b>Analysis skills</b> Being able to critically analyse artworks using technical vocabulary. The analysis should explore the artwork visually (using the formal elements), technically (to understand how the artist made the work) and contextually (to understand why the artist made the work).</p>	<p><b>Annotation skills</b> Being able to explain your own artwork and experiments. Annotation should include WHAT you have done, WHY you have done it, HOW you have done it, QUALITY – how well have you done it and LEARNING – what have you learnt from doing it? This should include technical vocabulary and how it relates to themes and artists.</p>	<p><b>Experimentation skills</b> Exploring your ideas through the use of various media, techniques and processes. Experimentation is where you explore the possibilities of your ideas. It is <u>not</u> doing the same thing over and over again in slightly different ways. Each experiment should teach you something new that you develop on in the next experiment. All experiments must be annotated to show that you understand what you have learnt from doing it and how it will MAKE YOUR WORK BETTER.</p>	<p><b>Idea Development</b> Being able to push your ideas forwards. This includes drawing, notes, personal comments and further experimentation and research. Ideas are not static, and your final piece should NEVER look like your initial idea – this shows that you lack imagination and have not tried to make your work better. Ideas go on forever, and there is always something else you can do to push your work forwards.</p>	<p><b>Personal identity &amp; development</b> The Arts are essential to personal identity &amp; development. They help you to understand the world, other people, yourself and how it all fits together. Art is a universal language that breaks down verbal language barriers and encourages conversation, expression and communication. Identity is explored and expressed through Art and the language of Art allows you to say things that you cannot put in to words. It is a collective and social, yet highly personal experience and encapsulates what it means to be Human.</p>

<p><b>Opinion giving/forming</b> Being able to write an informed personal opinion on an artwork or researched theme. This should refer to the information collected from the research and analysis.</p>	<p><b>Recording skills</b> Being able to document your work. This refers to annotation, research, personal comments and opinions, drawing and design development. This is essentially about using your sketchbook as a journal – to document everything you have thought/looked at/done along the way.</p>	<p><b>Media skills</b> This is how well you use various media. You will have a different ability with each different technique, process and material. Showing your media skills is about practising, improving and learning how to use different things.</p>	<p><b>Understand visual language</b> This means that you can show understanding of how an artwork is technically created and how this can link to the conceptual and contextual ideas behind it. This includes composition, colour, light, mark-making, texture, symbolism, line, tone, movement, energy, objects, expression, mood.</p>	<p><b>Excitement</b> Art is exciting! It is about EVERYTHING – the whole world, the whole of history, the whole of the future. It is about culture and society and people – yourself and others. It incorporates every single subject you could ever study – you literally have the world at your fingertips.</p>
<p><b>Research/investigation skills</b> Being able to research an artwork or theme. This research should include relevant &amp; interesting information, images, case studies and multiple points of view. If there is a particular context to the artwork, additional research in to this will aid understanding of the work.</p>	<p><b>Evaluation skills</b> Being able to reflect on a piece of work or project and identify what you have done, why you have done it, what your inspiration was, what went well and how you could improve. This is about pulling your own work apart to identify the strengths and weaknesses so that you can build upon these in future.</p>	<p><b>Presentation</b> The Visual Arts are all about aesthetics, so your sketchbooks must be presented well at all times. This means taking pride in every single page.</p>	<p><b>Divergent &amp; Convergent thinking</b> This is about using your imagination. Divergent thinking is where you give yourself no limits – it is very useful for the generation of ideas. “Imagine you had unlimited time, skill, money, space etc. What COULD you do?” This allows you to let your imagination run free. Convergent thinking is where you review your divergent ideas whilst considering the limits that you do have, so that you end up with an achievable route forwards.</p>	<p><b>Independent Learner</b> Being an independent learner is about taking control of your own journey. It is about doing what you are asked to do when you are asked to do it. It is about doing MORE than you have been asked to do. It is about time-management and ensuring that you are taking responsibility for your own learning. In the Arts, the teacher is just the starting point – your journey should be as unique as you are.</p>
		<p><b>Be able to realise intentions</b> This means that you are technically able to create your final piece in the best way possible. This is where your skill with media is judged in your final piece.</p>		
<p><b>Reading images</b> Being able to pull apart an artwork visually and technically. This should refer to the formal elements, composition, symbolism, colour organisation etc. This is about being able to dissect an artwork to reveal the story behind it.</p>	<p><b>Reflection &amp; review</b> This means being able to stop and look at your work before you have finished it and make a judgement on it. Reflection and review is a very useful tool for being able to improve your work as you are doing it. It gives you the chance to identify what</p>	<p><b>Create personal &amp; meaningful work</b> Your final outcomes should show your understanding of the whole of your investigations – how your artists have influenced you, how well you have researched and understood you theme, how you have</p>	<p><b>Creative thinking</b> Being able to tackle a problem creatively. This means being able to collect information and interpret it using imaginative and personal ideas. Creativity is creating something new, expressive and exciting that</p>	<p><b>Effort</b> Effort is key to success. The more you put in, the more you get out. Your effort allows you to experience the joys of creativity.</p>

	is going really well, what is not, and what further research, experimentation etc. you need to do in order to improve your work before you finish it.	developed your ideas, how you have experimented with your ideas and made them better. The final piece is the culmination of your entire sketchbook & needs to show a deep understanding of everything that you have done, as well as a clear and meaningful journey.	has an intelligent idea behind it.	<b>Imagination</b> Your imagination is precious and should not be limited. Learn to appreciate your imagination and let it go wild!
<b>Contextual skills</b> Being able to research, understand and empathise with the story behind an artwork. The context is the situation an artwork was made in, and the reason for making it.	<b>Technical vocabulary</b> This is essential to all of your written work. You must use the correct technical vocabulary to show that you understand the language of Art.	<b>Drawing skills</b> Drawing covers a huge range of processes. We draw for many different reasons – to capture life, to explore ideas, to express through mark-making, to develop possibilities. Drawing is essential to all Arts qualifications and should be used consistently to explore and record ideas.	<b>Curiosity</b> This is about WANTING TO KNOW THINGS. Curiosity is essential to creative pursuits. You show curiosity by researching further, exploring your ideas in detail and experimenting consistently.	<b>Confidence</b> If you allow yourself to take risks, explore, create and discover, you will be amazed by what you can achieve! Your confidence will grow with every new thing you learn and every artwork that you create. You will make and learn things that you never thought were possible, and you will express yourself in ways that you could never have imagined.
<b>Understanding how the work of other artists and sources provide inspiration</b> All of the above lead to a deep understanding of the work of other artists and sources. The outcome of this is to show this understanding through experimentation and development of own ideas – “how can you use what you have learnt from the artist/source to refine and develop your own work?”	<b>Improving work</b> Understanding that the creation and development of Art and creativity is a life-long process. There is no final ‘right answer’. You need to be open to the constant improvement, development and refinement of your work and to learning new things.	<b>Risk-taking</b> This is about stepping out of your comfort zone and not being trapped in a cycle of doing the same thing because you are scared of trying something new and getting it wrong. There is no such thing as a mistake – only an opportunity to learn!	<b>Understanding the formal elements</b> These are the foundations of the Visual Arts. You must show that you understand what they are, how artists use them and how you can manipulate them in your work. <b>Formal Elements of Art:</b> 1. Line 2. Shape 3. Form 4. Tone 5. Texture 6. Space 7. Colour	<b>Expression</b> Being able to express ourselves is important to our mental health and our ability to relate to others. It is essential to our personal development and to understanding our identity. Art allows you to explore and discover who you are, and to express yourself in a multitude of different ways.

			<p><b>Principles of Design:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Composition</li> <li>2. Balance</li> <li>3. Movement</li> <li>4. Emphasis</li> <li>5. Pattern &amp; Repetition</li> <li>6. Proportion</li> <li>7. Rhythm</li> <li>8. Variety</li> <li>9. Unity</li> </ol>	<p><b>Representation &amp; Equality</b>          We believe in Equality and we believe in representation for all. The Arts are welcoming and diverse and we believe that it is important to understand the huge variety of humanity and the beauty in our differences. Art is a global language that allows us to understand and celebrate each other!</p>
<p><b>Historical and social significance of the Arts</b>          The Arts are the reason that we exist. It has been proven that the Arts are what brought us together in to communities and allowed us to flourish as a species. The ability to share experiences, express ourselves and create new things is essential to our survival. Historically and socially, the Arts are the one thing that lingers on and allows us to understand each other.</p>			<p><b>Refining skills</b>          To refine your work means to MAKE IT BETTER. Ways that you make your work better are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By showing that you understand the work of other artists. You should be able to show what you have learnt from them and how they have inspired you.</li> <li>• By showing that you understand your research and your work explores your theme in an interesting and personal way.</li> <li>• By showing that you have experimented in various media, techniques and processes, annotating along the way to consider what you have learnt and how to make your work better.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Open minded</b>          Being open minded is to rid yourself of stereotypes, pre-judgement and lazy thinking. The Arts allow us to understand people on a deep and personal level. They give us the opportunity to see who people are, why they are who they are, what problems they face and what is important to them. We have so many different ideas of what it means to be human – the Arts allow you to experience and empathise with them all.</p> <p><b>Cultural appreciation</b>          Different cultures have different ideas, histories, problems, standards and ways of living, ceremonies and ways of seeing the world. The Arts allow us to explore these through the eyes of these people and appreciate the diversity of the human experience.</p>