

SINAI JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL
 “Big School, Big Heart, Big Opportunities”

ART CURRICULUM

INTENT

Our Art and Design curriculum is to cultivate an environment where students can explore and refine their artistic skills across various mediums. We aim to provide our children with the knowledge and skills necessary to experiment, innovate and create their own art pieces. Through our curriculum, students will develop the ability to think critically, create freely and evaluate their work, gaining a deep understanding of art and design. Our goal is to nurture an appreciation for art, enabling students to engage in informed discussions about different artists and styles. By exposing our students to artists, craftspeople and designers from diverse cultures and historical periods, we aim to enrich their understanding of art’s impact on society and encourage them to embrace their unique creative expressions.

BIG OPPORTUNITIES

Our art curriculum explores a vast array of artistic expressions, celebrating diversity in artists’ backgrounds, times, genders and races. This approach broadens perspectives and fosters a sense of belonging. We aim to actively involve our community, inviting parents and local artists to workshops and projects, thereby enhancing learning and strengthening bonds. Incorporating interdisciplinary projects, our curriculum blends art with subjects like history and science. A highlight is our Careers Week for Year 6, introducing them to art careers beyond traditional roles, including graphic design and digital art, showing the breadth of possibilities their passion for art offers. We also engage the whole school in art projects for significant days like Remembrance Day and Chanukah, teaching the importance of commemoration and celebration through art. Our aim is to inspire our students, showing them the range of paths art can lead to, all while contributing to their growth and our community’s cultural richness.

IMPLEMENTATION

Starting with EYFS, our curriculum builds a solid base for artistic expression and creativity, incorporating sensory exploration and fine motor development through art activities designed for our youngest learners. From Years 1-6, we offer bi-weekly hour-long lessons that are structured to maximise student engagement and skill development. Each lesson provides a Learning Objective, activity outline, steps to success and key vocabulary to ensure students gain a comprehensive understanding of the skills, concepts and knowledge involved. Our program emphasises drawing in every lesson, recommending the use of a full A3 page to encourage detailed and expressive artwork. Units begin with an artistic investigation, where students explore various images and artworks to spark their creativity and critical thinking. This includes annotating, commenting and sketching, preparing them for deeper exploration. Students experience a rotation of six art strands—Drawing, Printing, Painting, Collage and Sculpting (clay)—for a holistic art education. Art stimulus pictures and key vocabulary are displayed prominently and each unit ends with the creation of a ‘wow’ piece and a written evaluation, showcasing their skills and highlighting their art journey and achievements.

IMPACT

Our children are confident, creative and able to critically think, they appreciate and understand the value of art in expressing human thought and emotion. Students emerge from our curriculum with a robust set of practical skills across various artistic mediums, along with the ability to critically evaluate their work and that of others. Through exposure to a diverse range of artists and styles, our students develop a broad perspective on art, recognizing its role in culture and history. They learn to appreciate the uniqueness of their own and others’ artistic expressions, fostering a lifelong engagement with art. The curriculum not only enhances students’ artistic abilities but also reinforces their character, encouraging them to approach the world with curiosity, creativity and an open mind.

KEY CONCEPTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Key Concepts: Investigate, Inspire, Refine, Celebrate, Reflect

Through ‘Investigate,’ students delve into historical, cultural and contemporary art, developing a deep understanding of artistic contexts and techniques. ‘Inspire’ encourages learners to draw upon a diverse range of sources, fostering creativity and original thought. ‘Refine’ focuses on the development of practical skills and the mastery of various media, allowing students to express their ideas with precision and confidence. ‘Celebrate’ is about acknowledging and showcasing the achievements of each student, promoting a culture of appreciation and pride in their artistic endeavors. Lastly, ‘Reflect’ ensures that students critically evaluate their work and the work of others, cultivating an informed appreciation of art and its impact. Together, these concepts ensure our curriculum not only meets but exceeds the national standards, equipping students with both the knowledge and skills to explore and express their artistic visions.

ASSESSMENT

The art assessment process combines various strategies to gauge student progress effectively. Pupil discussions offer summative insights, while ‘I can’ statements in sketchbooks allow for ongoing teacher assessments, with progress clearly dated. Sketchbooks also serve as a visual record of practical learning. Pupil interviews further deepen our understanding of their learning experiences. The Subject leader reviews sketchbooks, facilitating teacher dialogues to overview class achievements. Annual curriculum reports track standards and the comparison of a ‘cold task’ with final ‘wow pieces’ showcases skill development. Children’s evaluations on key questions promote self-reflection. This comprehensive approach ensures a detailed assessment of artistic growth.