Art and Design Curriculum Statement

Intent

At St Anne’s RC Primary school, we strive to provide our children with the confidence, knowledge and skills to create and discuss various art forms. We aim to provide children opportunities to explore, experiment and create different forms of art and design. We hope to inspire them to explore their own creative and innovative ideas within art and design based on the knowledge and skills they have gained and to become creative citizens. We aim to allow children freedom within their art work to explore and express their own ideas to promote their individual liberty. Each unit of work, which is linked to their learning topic and provides children with the opportunity to learn new skills and build on prior learning.

Our art curriculum is taught based on the National curriculum 2014. We offer a broad range of art forms throughout children’s school experience, and have planned for each art form to be visited at least twice. This is so that children are able to build upon their prior knowledge and progress their confidence and skills within this specific art form.

We focus specifically on

* Children’s ability to come up with their own ideas
* Children’s ability to understand and execute skills to create a desired effect
* Children’s ability to evaluate their own and other pieces of work in a constructive way
* Children’s knowledge of the unit and key artists

In order to allow children to come up with their ideas, units begin with an opportunity for children to explore what is out there. The children will always focus on a specific skill as well as an Artist. Art is taught in a way that children are able to explore and experiment with different media in order to make their own discoveries.

We introduce and revisit different media throughout the key stages so that children are able to master the skills of each media as they move through school. After being able to explore different media, children will be guided and taught specific skills to create desired effects. These skills are progressive throughout the school and will allow children the opportunity to practise and perfect these skills. These skills will be practised in a very hands-on way in order for children to gain an understanding of the effects they are able to create.

At St Annes, we focus specifically on the skill of drawing. We have identified that drawing skills create the basis for most other art forms and therefore felt that it was important to provide our children with an extensive drawing roadmap throughout school. Each year the group will cover a unit on drawing. Drawing is progressive throughout the school as a new media or skill will be introduced for each year group.

It is important for us that children gain a knowledge of art literacy in order for them to gain confidence in discussing and evaluating pieces of art. Children will be taught key language about the key elements of colour, tone/form, line/shape and patterns/texture. The vocabulary taught progresses through the school in order to provide a breadth of vocabulary in Art. This will allow children to be able to confidently discuss these elements when evaluating works of art. We aim for our children to be able to evaluate in a constructive way and have the knowledge to be able to set their own, and their peers' next steps. This evaluation process has a clear code of conduct to support the Rule of Law in order for our children to feel safe when sharing their opinions.

We teach our children about great artists, creators and designers in order for them to understand and experience key moments within the history of art. These artist’s are used to drive children’s interest in art and to see how art is an expression of oneself and inspire every student to explore their own personal creative identity. By focusing on these artists, children are given the opportunity to compare and contrast the key elements which artists have used. We have focused on artists and topics from a diverse range of backgrounds and countries to ensure that our children can see themselves in the art no matter what their background may be. This encourages children to respect and be tolerant of other cultures.

Implementation

Art is taught once every term in a half term block. Learning is organised in a way, which ensures children will revisit and revise their knowledge in order to develop a greater understanding of their learning. Forms of art will be revisited throughout our curriculum in order to embed children’s knowledge and to broaden their ability within the art form.

There is a focus throughout school on the knowledge that children will learn and there is an emphasis on remembering. To ensure that we are facilitating children to remember their learning, we plan for teachers to revisit skills that have been taught in previous years. These allow children to recall their prior knowledge of art whether this be a discussion of formal elements, skills or a key artist. This not only allows children the opportunity to show their understanding but lets them improve their art literacy and oracy skills.

All lessons, whether they are a drawing unit or not, will begin with a drawing starter and will focus on children being taught to draw specific shapes accurately so that they have this knowledge to use throughout their artwork. At the end of lessons, children will be asked a ‘big question’. This question could be based on the lesson they have just learnt or a previous lesson. Children share their own opinions/ knowledge on the subject or their prior learning.

Children use a sketchbook from year 1 to 6 in order for them to reflect, review and revisit their prior learning and skills. Sketchbooks provide the opportunity for children to experiment and try out new ideas and skills. We also encourage children to self-evaluate their own work and with discussion from their teacher create next steps. In addition to personal and peer evaluations, children will be assessed by the teacher. Teachers will have a document which allows them to assess the child’s abilities within the four focus areas- knowledge, ideas, making and evaluating based on the agreed success criteria.

Art is an inclusive subject which promotes equality for all of our students. We aim to provide a safe space in art in order to make mistakes and promote these mistakes as an important part of the creative process. This mindset allows our children the freedom to explore what works and what doesn’t, learn, and keep moving as creative citizens.

**Impact**

At the end of each unit, the children will have built on their skills such as painting, drawing and sculpture which will be evidenced in their sketchbooks. Children will also have a better knowledge and understanding of the skill they have learnt as well as the procedures within their skill. During the unit, they will have engaged with Artists, creators and designers and should have a better understanding of their work.

At the end of the children’s time at St Anne’s RC Primary School, they will have been exposed to a range of Artists, designers and creators who may inspire them in their future education. The children will have a good understanding of different media such as painting, drawing and sculpture which should allow them to continue to progress in Art throughout their education.