

Art and Design Policy



Gwladys Street
Community Primary and
Nursery School

Approved by:	Full Governing Body	Date: April 2025
Last reviewed on:	2024	
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Gwladys Street Nursery and Primary School Art and Design Policy

Links to Whole School Aims

We want our school to be one:-

1. Where everyone has access to an engaging, creative and challenging curriculum that promotes a love of learning.
2. Where everyone feels safe, happy and secure in our learning community.
3. Where everyone works in partnership with the wider school community.
4. Where Golden Opportunities are provided in an Inclusive Setting.
5. Where everyone respects each other and works as a team to achieve our GOALS.
6. Where children develop lively, enquiring minds, self-confidence and independence.
7. Which promotes a healthy lifestyle and positive, spiritual and moral values.

Mission Statement

At Gwladys Street Primary, we recognise the importance of nurturing creativity in our pupils. We develop the knowledge and skills of Art and Design in a variety of ways and encourage children to express themselves through their art. Art and Design at Gwladys Street allows creativity to flow in a variety of ways from drawing to collage to sculpture.

Teaching of Art and Design in the new curriculum has a stronger emphasis on the teaching of drawing using a range of media from an early age working towards mastery of techniques. There is a new emphasis on knowing about the historical development of art through a greater emphasis on teaching about great artists and designers. Pupils' sketchbooks are used to gather, collect ideas, experiment and reflect.

Definition

"Art, craft and design embody some of the highest forms of human creativity. A high-quality art and design education should engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design. As pupils progress, they should be able to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of art and design. This should also know how art and design both reflect and shape our history, and contribute to the culture, creativity and wealth of our nation."

National Curriculum 2014

Intent

At Gwladys Street Primary we aim to deliver a high-quality Art curriculum which should engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design.

We will aim to do this by:

- Nurturing and developing creativity and imagination within the subject, and fostering an interest that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.
- Encouraging children to take risks and experiment, and then reflect on why some ideas and techniques are successful or not.
- Giving all children opportunities to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of art and design.
- Building on prior knowledge - this is a key part of our curriculum, allowing children to become fluent in understanding the impact Art has on daily life and the wider world.

Children are able to develop their skills from first hand experiences; in addition to studying to significant artists, crafts people and designers through different periods of time and cultures.

Implementation

Children are taught to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of artistic techniques.

We take every opportunity to develop links with outside agencies and experts, including the local high school, in order to enrich our Art provision.

Progression of skills are mapped out to develop high expectations through 'real life' experiences.

Children are taught to use key vocabulary which is always building on prior learning and which is used within all processes of the Art curriculum.

There is an understanding that art work should be purposeful; be this as a means of expression or to explore the styles of other artists that inspire our own work.

Children are given the opportunity to develop skills in drawing, painting, collage, textile, 3D, and printmaking, and understanding the importance of each one.

They are able to use a range of media and materials to develop skills.

Impact

In Art, we would like to ensure that all children leave with an enthusiasm and enjoyment for Art, with an eagerness to develop artistic skills.

Emphasis is placed on investigative learning opportunities to help children gain a coherent knowledge of understanding of each unit of work covered throughout the school.

Our art and design curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

Assessing children's understanding of topic linked vocabulary before and after the unit is taught.

Summative assessment of pupil discussions about their learning.

Images and videos of the children's practical learning.

Interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).

Moderation staff meetings where pupil's books are scrutinised and there is the opportunity for a dialogue between teachers to understand their class's work.

Teaching and Learning of Art and Design

Art and Design at Gwladys Street allows children to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding through activities set out in their topics and is based on the national curriculum requirements. The Art and Design work completed through these topics will be supported by Opening Worlds, Kapow and the Suffolk Scheme of work. Art is taught as a block of lessons at the beginning of every half term to enable skills and techniques to be imbedded.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage

Children in FS1 and FS2 experiment and build their Art and Design skills through 'Exploring Media and Materials' which allows our youngest children to explore colour and texture through focused activities and child-led activities through continuous provision, linked in with children's needs and interests. Children are encouraged to be independent in their learning and staff encourage this through carefully planned activities and allow children to access a wide range of art and craft resources both indoors and outdoors. Children are

regularly encouraged to reflect on their learning which closely links with the evaluating skills expected in Key Stage One and Two.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Opportunities to access Art and Design are available to all and through the topics, children bring different experiences and talents. Art is often organised in a practical and multisensory way, and different forms of communication and recording are used. At Gwladys Street Primary School we aim to provide effective learning opportunities for all pupils in this curriculum area.

The Art curriculum is available to all children regardless of gender and cultural background. A wide variety of art is used from different cultural traditions. These are used to support and give examples of different artistic styles and techniques. We welcome art from different religious traditions in order to further understanding, both of the religions themselves and the importance of art in various aspects of life.

Children with educational needs will have the same access to art, craft and design. It may be necessary to adjust and differentiate the art curriculum for those with specific difficulties. It is, however, our belief that these children often experience success and satisfaction through art activities. Art is a means of communication, not bound by written and spoken language, and enables pupils with special needs of all kinds to develop a capacity for self-expression.

There is also extended services and differing projects available to support gifted and talented and SEN children. These projects vary according to needs, interests and availability. An example of this is the DotArt Schools project which runs yearly for children in Year 5.

Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of the National Curriculum and in relation to Art and Design, teachers should assess pupil's achievements and their knowledge through the topics covered in each year group. Each topic starts with a Knowledge Harvest where children discuss what they already know about the topic and what they would like to find out. Assessment needs to be based on a combination of observing the child's work and process of work, and discussion with the child. Evidence for assessment will be supported by their final pieces as well as preliminary work and children's own ongoing self-evaluations, evident in their sketchbooks. Assessments will also be made through the use of the expectations laid out in the Suffolk Scheme at the end of each skills unit. Teachers will assess KS1 and KS2 pupils termly according to their achievement through deeper learning judgements on O Track.

Children will build upon their existing knowledge to ensure continuity and progression, and this will be evident in the planning for each year. The development of skills in the different aspects of this curriculum area will be evident in the sketchbooks of children as they move through the school. Progression of skills will be ensured through the use of the Suffolk Scheme of work as a basis for the teaching and planning of Art and Design through year group topics.

Sketchbooks in Art and Design

Children will be encouraged to develop the using their sketchbooks for:

- recording, exploring and storing visual and other information
- notes and selected materials which can readily be retrieved and used as reference,
- working out ideas, plans and designs, reference - as they develop ideas for their work -
looking back at and reflecting on their work, reviewing and identifying their progress.
- as an ongoing record
develop their ideas, skills and understanding.

Sketchbooks will move through each Key Stage as the children progress from one year to another. The sketchbooks will contain no mounted end pieces, although the use of photographs may be applicable in some year groups.

Resources

Key Stage One storage for materials and resources is located in the breakfast room.
Key Stage Two storage for materials and resources is located in the Year 6 resource room.

Class teachers should check that equipment is returned to the stockroom and the Arts Co-ordinator should be informed if materials run out or become damaged. The Arts Co-ordinator will maintain and audit these resources. Specific items should be requested from the Arts Co-ordinator with plenty of notice of the new topic. FS1 and FS2 have a specific area within their base for the storage of Art and Design materials and resources for use in the creative areas of the classroom.

Health and Safety

At all times, children will be taught how to care for and handle equipment and media safely and with respect, and in line with Gwladys Street's Health and Safety policy. As a school, we follow the advice from CLEAPPS, an organisation that supports practical work in science, D&T and Art. Teachers will also refer to the Art and Design risk assessment in which hazards and risks relating to Art and Design are laid out comprehensively.

When working with tools, equipment and materials, in practical and in different environments, including those that are unfamiliar, pupils should be made aware of the risks and safe practice should be maintained at all times.

Monitoring

- Art co-ordinator will audit and monitor resources throughout the year and request new resources when appropriate.
- Art co-ordinator will monitor the teaching of Art and Design throughout the school by looking at sketchbooks and supporting teaching when needed.
- Art co-ordinator will monitor and evaluate external support and services where applicable.
- Art co-ordinator to use staff and pupil questionnaires to support development needs.

Art co-ordinator: Mrs L Haslehurst

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