



# **St John's Catholic Primary School**

## **Art & Design Policy**

## Mission Statement

love of learning  
and playing together  
one community  
aiming high  
helping each other  
and praying together

On our journey with Christ

The aim of this policy is to guide teachers and support staff in providing the best possible learning experiences for our children. We believe that every child is a child of God; we will encourage in all children the knowledge and love of God, and in a concern and care for others; we will value each child for who they are and what they are; and we will ensure that every child has the opportunity to become the person God knows them to be, irrespective of their starting points, background or cultural and religious beliefs.

Our mission sets out our commitment to 'aiming high'. Improvements in the quality of teaching and learning are brought about through a process, which involves:

- reflection by individual professionals
- acting on planning feedback and guidance
- use of assessment data
- the target setting process
- sharing in-house expertise through
  - joint/team planning
  - discussion with colleagues, subject coordinators and SLT
  - Staff training at school
  - Team teaching lessons
  - Peer observation and lesson studies
- implementation of recommendations arising from classroom observation
- effective response to guidance from advisers and implementation of OfSTED Action Plan
- CPD courses

This policy will be reviewed regularly to enable us to take account of new initiatives, curriculum changes, technological developments and any changes to our pupil cohort profile.

## **Aims and Objectives**

### Aims

Art and design stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences, and a special way of understanding and responding to the world. It enables children to communicate what they see, feel and think, through the use of colour, texture, form, pattern and different materials and processes. Children become involved in shaping their environments through art and design activities. They learn to make informed judgements, and artistic and practical decisions. They explore ideas and meanings through the work of artists and designers. Through learning about the roles and functions of art, they can explore the impact it has had on contemporary life and on different periods and cultures.

### Objectives

- to develop creativity and imagination through a range of complex activities;
- to improve the children's ability to control materials, tools and techniques;
- to develop increasing confidence in the use of visual and tactile elements and materials;
- to increase their critical awareness of the roles and purposes of art and design in different times and cultures;
- to encourage pupils to evaluate and review their work and that of others, both individually and in groups.
- to encourage the pupils to respond to, and articulate opinions on, art, craft and design using a specialist art vocabulary when describing their work and ideas
- to foster an enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts, and a knowledge of artists, craftspeople and designers.

## **Teaching and Learning**

The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in art and design lessons through a topic based approach. Our principal aim is to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding. We ensure that the act of creating something includes exploring and developing ideas and children are encouraged to evaluate their own ideas and methods, and the work of others, and to say what they think and feel about them.

We recognise the fact that we have children of differing ability in all our classes, and we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this through a range of strategies:

- providing a range of challenges with different resources;
- having more adults support the work of individual children or small groups.
- setting tasks that are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty, where not all children complete all tasks;

## **Curriculum Planning**

Art and design is a foundation subject in the National Curriculum. At St. John's Rc Primary School, we use a topic based approach as the basis for our curriculum planning in art and design.

Our plans, which are from the National Curriculum, are planned as part of a topic. These plans define what we will teach, and ensure an appropriate balance and distribution of work across each term and throughout the year.

We plan the activities in art and design so that they build on the children's prior learning. While we give children of all abilities the opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding, we also plan for progression in the work, so that there is an increasing challenge for the children as they move up through the school.

## **EYFS**

Art and design in the nursery and reception classes is taught as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. In the Early years Foundation stage, art and design contributes to a child's development in the area of 'Expressive arts and design'.

We relate the children's creative development to the objectives set out in the EYFS, which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. The children's learning includes art, music, dance, role-play and imaginative play. The range of experience encourages children to make connections between one area of learning and another, and so extends their understanding.

Pupils should be taught:

- to express themselves using a variety of media: art, music and dance.
- to use art, music and dance to explore their imagination and ideas.
- to explore and describe the texture of different media.
- to explore combining different media and see what happens to the texture.
- to use specific colours for a purpose.
- to mix colours and explore what happens.

## **Contribution to the Catholic Ethos**

"Artistic talent is a gift from God and whoever discovers it in himself has a certain obligation; to know that he cannot waste this talent, but must develop it".- Pope John Paul II

By preparing our pupils to explore and develop their artistic talents and abilities, we are ensuring that they are able to fulfil their God-given potential.

## **Contribution to the other curriculum areas**

### English

Art and Design contributes to the teaching of English in our school by encouraging the children to ask and answer questions about the starting points for work. They have the opportunity to compare ideas, methods and approaches in their own work and that of other children, and to say what they think and feel about them.

### Mathematics

Art and Design contributes to the teaching of mathematics in our school by giving opportunities to develop the children's understanding of shape and space through work in two and three dimensions.

### Computing

We use Computing to support Art and Design when appropriate. Children use software to explore shape, colour and pattern in their work. Older children are beginning to collect visual information to help them develop their ideas by using digital and video cameras to record observations. Children use the internet to find out more about famous artists and designers.

## **Inclusion**

We teach art and design to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Art and design forms part of our school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all our children. Our teachers provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. We strive to meet the needs of all pupils with special educational needs, disabilities, special gifts and talents, and of those learning English as an additional language.

## **Assessment for learning**

We assess the children's work in art and design while observing them working during lessons. At the end of a unit of work, we make a judgement against the National Curriculum levels of attainment annual report to parents.

## **Resources**

We have a wide range of resources to support the teaching of art and design across the school. All our classrooms have a range of basic resources, but we keep the more specialised equipment in the art and design storage area.

## **Monitoring and review**

The coordination and planning of the art and design curriculum are the responsibility of the subject leader, who also:

- supports colleagues in their teaching, by keeping informed about current developments in art and design, and by providing a strategic lead and direction for this subject;
- give the headteacher an annual summary report in which s/he evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in art and design, and indicates areas for further improvement.

