



Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School and Nursery Art Policy

Reviewed September 2019
Next Review March 2020

Rationale

At Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School and Nursery, we believe that teaching and learning in art is important because it stimulates creativity, imagination and inventiveness. The purpose of art education is to give pupils the skills, concepts and knowledge necessary for them to express responses to ideas and experiences in a visual or tactile form. It fires their imagination and is a fundamental means of personal expression.

“Art is not just a subject to learn, but an activity that you can practise with your hands, your eyes, your whole personality.”

Quentin Blake, Children’s Laureate

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. Through this the children learn to make informed judgements and aesthetic and practical decisions. Children explore ideas and meanings through the work of artists and designers. Art is not taught in isolation, although it retains its creative base and its skills and techniques. Wherever appropriate it is linked to other areas of the curriculum and gives children the opportunities to develop specific art skills and reinforces skills already established. As a school we do celebrate and recognise the work children bring into school from home and often display this in class.

Aims

At Sir Alexander Fleming Primary School and Nursery, we aim to offer opportunities for children to:

- foster an understanding and enjoyment of art, craft and design
- experience a broad and balanced range of art activities and show progression within these experiences
- development of ideas and their own skills
- develop their ability to observe, investigate, respond to and record the world around them through a growing variety of forms and media
- develop use of a range of tools, media and processes
- develop an understanding of the work of artists, crafts people and designers and apply this knowledge to their own work
- provide opportunities for studying historical, cultural and religious art
- celebrate and explore the work of British artists and those from other cultures.
- through art extend and enrich other curriculum areas

Role of the Subject Leader

The role of the subject leader is to;

- advise and support staff in planning teaching and learning of art
- support staff with art technique
- monitor teachers' planning as part of on-going subject monitoring and evaluation of practice
- use feedback from monitoring to develop an action plan for Art with realistic and developmental targets
- audit, identify, purchase and organise all art resources, ensuring they are readily available and well maintained
- keep up-to-date on the use of Art in the curriculum
- promote art throughout the school e.g. organise an art day during the summer term
- to monitor use of the sketchbook throughout the school
- organise timetable for resident artist – Dave Farlow
- Display the art work created through structured / focused teaching of Art

Teaching and Learning

The Foundation Stage

The different aspects of the arts are encompassed within Creative Development in the Foundation Stage Curriculum, however elements can also be found in other areas of learning (Physical development, Literacy and Mathematics). This curriculum lends itself to an integrated approach to learning. Nursery and Reception teachers plan quality-learning opportunities for art using the Early Years Curriculum. There is an emphasis on independence and self-initiated learning, which enables foundation stage children to freely explore resources and pursue their own creative interests and talents in addition to the planned learning experiences.

Key Stages 1 and 2

Staff use a variety of teaching and learning styles in art lessons relating to the theme and children's abilities and experience.

Our planning includes opportunities for:

- children to work individually, in pairs or in larger groups
- preliminary investigation work through the use of sketch books
- first hand experience
- visiting artists to work with children to give them the experience of working with a professional
- use of a range of materials (2D and 3D), ICT, artefacts and visits out in the surrounding area
- evaluation of ideas and methods
- children to see that their work is valued, celebrated and displayed around the school

Each year group has been assigned one artist to explore and create work in the style of each year. Teachers will teach children about the history of their assigned artist and their preferred style of art. In addition to this, each Key Stage will be assigned one British artist to explore. This may be through assemblies led by Art Lead, class assemblies or during British Values week etc.

These artists are as follows:

Nursery:

Reception: Kandinsky

Y1: Andy Goldsworthy

Y2: Anthony Gormley

Y3: Henri Matisse

Y4: David Hockney

Y5: Friedensreich Hundertwasser

Y6: Monet and the Impressionists

Recording Responses

The artwork is used as an initial way of exploring children's responses to a variety of stimuli through mark making, colour mixing and pattern work. The artwork, initial sketches will be kept in the curriculum book and may lead to a final piece of work or may be used as a reference point for future pieces of work. The children are encouraged to think of it as the place to practice, develop and focus their work using a variety of media. The use of rubbers is discouraged in order to try and make the sketchbook a place where it is okay to make mistakes. Work should be dated with the learning objective and skills so that it provides a suitable record for both the teacher and the child.

Recording in the topic book can take many forms and can be used to:

- practise certain skills and features, and to gather information for use on a larger piece of work
- practise drawing techniques such as shading, perspective and drawing from different viewpoints
- record details about the item being drawn or sketched for future reference
- include sketches and working drawings for ideas of things the children want to make
- gather information to give specific knowledge of how things are made or work

The Art and Design work can be used as a place to collect:

- Photographs
- Pictures from magazines, comics, cards, calendars, stamps etc
- Samples of textures, fabrics, and other materials
- Lists of resources that the children might need to produce a piece of art
- Colour strips from colour mixing
- Studies of the effects of media on different types of paper
- Evaluations by children of their own and the work of other artists

Where possible the children should be encouraged to comment on the media and techniques used, even at a basic level ("You smudge it with your fingers.").

Planning to establish cross-curricular links in the following areas will enhance the delivery of the subject:

- Computing
- Literacy and numeracy
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Use of Computing

Computing enhances our teaching of Art and Design. Children use software to explore shape, colour and pattern in their work e.g. Revelation Art. All children can collect visual information to help them develop their ideas by using the digital cameras, and scanners. They can record their observations and manipulate them through editing or painting software to create their own designs. The children also use the Internet to find out more about the lives and works of famous artists and designers.

Literacy

Art and design contributes to the teaching of English in our school by encouraging children to ask and answer questions about the starting points for their 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.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

The teaching of art and design offers opportunities to support the social development of our children through the way we expect them to work with each other in lessons. Groupings allow children to work together and give them the chance to discuss their ideas and feelings about their own work and the work of others. Their work in general helps them to develop a respect for the abilities of other children and encourage them to collaborate and co-operate across a range of activities and experiences. The children learn to respect and work with each other and with adults, thus developing a better understanding of themselves. They also develop an understanding of different times, cultures and religions through their work on famous artists, designers and craftspeople.

Health and safety

Health and safety is important, particularly when working with tools, equipment and resources.

Children need to be taught how to:

- use tools and equipment correctly
- recognise hazards and risk control

Equal opportunities

Equal opportunities are considered when we decide upon the resources we provide and the teaching strategies we employ. In our curriculum planning we ensure that all children, with due respect to their culture, religion and background, have equal access to all areas of the curriculum, extra-curricular activities, all areas of the grounds, equipment and resources, the staff, and time to contribute to the whole class and group work.

Differentiation

The teaching of art and design needs to take into account the varied abilities, attitudes and individual needs of the children. Art lessons can be differentiated by outcome however, if a skill or activity is deemed inappropriate for a child or group of children, alternatives will be planned which best suit their needs.

Inclusion

Lessons and activities are planned to include all children by using a range of approaches. This includes: questioning, use of equipment, and mixed ability grouping to enable children to offer peer support. Lessons are planned to facilitate the identification of children at either end of the ability range within each class. A number of children have been identified as having a real talent for art (see Gifted & Talented Policy)

Assessment and recording

We assess children's work in art by making informal judgements as we observe them during each art lesson. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher responds to children's work, using the skills identified on the Learning Objective; these should demonstrate a progression of skills which enable the teacher to identify areas for development. All children will use their skills learnt over the term to complete a piece of Art work as identified in the curriculum planning.