

Art and Design at Valley Road School

Intent

We want our children to love art, craft and design both in school and to engage in it for their adult lives. We want them to gain pleasure and satisfaction from the creative process and to recognise its importance in life.

Our Art curriculum is designed to engage, inspire and challenge pupils, whilst equipping them with the knowledge and skills to be able to experiment, invent and create their own works of art. As pupils progress, they should gain a deeper understanding of how art and design reflects and shapes our history, and how it contributes to the culture, creativity and wealth of our world. We want to equip our children with not only the minimum statutory requirements of the Art and Design National Curriculum, but to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. We want our children to use not only their immediate surroundings as inspiration, but to learn from the wider world of multi-cultural Britain, the work of all genders, and to respect and enjoy its diversity. To that end, we have carefully selected a wide range of unique and diverse artists, craft makers and designers for children to study and experience first-hand famous original works of art.

Art Implementation

- At Valley Road, Art is taught in every year group, usually once per term.
- Topics are blocked to allow children to focus on developing their knowledge and skills, studying each topic in depth.
- Art topics generally follow a Research- Skills - Final Piece - Evaluate structure.
- Each child has a sketchbook. We give the child ownership of their sketchbook in order to foster their sense of creativity.
- Children use their sketchbooks to make initial sketches, develop skills, record ideas AND develop opinions.
- Throughout the Valley Road journey, every child is given the opportunity to learn the skills of drawing, painting, printing, sculpture and digital art through the exploration of an initial key artist, craft maker or designer and their work
- Through in-depth discussion, the pupils explore how their art can share commonalities with famous art and use subject specific vocabulary to discuss key artworks and their own work.
- In the development of confident art critics, the pupils share their opinions and make informed observations about what will improve their own practical work.
- In KS1 and KS2, skills are planned in to be revisited, giving the children the opportunity to extend their knowledge and practice in the context of a variety of artworks from a range of eras.
- Some cross-curricular links are promoted to allow all children to deepen their understanding across the curriculum, including the use of technology, and artworks from year group specific historical, geographical and scientific contexts.

- Opportunities for children to visit art galleries and museums are planned for, as well as visits from local artists.
- We empower our staff to organise their own year group curriculums under the guidance of our Curriculum Lead and Individual Subject Leaders. Teachers are best placed to make these judgements.
- Teachers follow a clear progression of skills which ensures all pupils are challenged in-line with their year group expectations and given opportunity to build on their prior knowledge.
- Opportunities to reflect and develop, including through the use of sketchbooks, and chances for self and peer- assessment are planned into each unit of study in KS1 and KS2.
- Effective CPD and standardisation opportunities are available to staff to ensure high levels of confidence and knowledge are maintained.
- To support teaching, staff access a range of resources and planning

EYFS

Expressive arts and design is one of the seven areas of the early years foundation stage and is used to develop a child's imagination, creativity and their ability to use media and materials. Children do this in range of ways including singing songs and making music, dancing, playing with colours, textures and design. All these approaches to expressive arts help children to represent and understand their own feelings and ideas.

Art Impact

The impact of this curriculum design will lead to outstanding progress over time across key stages relative to a child's individual starting point and their progression of skills. Children will therefore be expected to leave Valley Road reaching at least age-related expectations for Art. Our Art curriculum will also lead pupils to be enthusiastic Art learners, evidenced in a range of ways, including pupil voice, their final pieces and sketchbooks.

The impact of our Art curriculum is to promote the opportunity for every child to be an artist. By embedding the formal elements, every child is encouraged to be creative, innovative and reflective on their own and others' practice using the subject specific vocabulary to support their reasoning. Through the use of sketchbooks and in-depth discussion around artists, their art and practices, pupils learn that art can be constantly reviewed and developed, further promoting the resilient, independent learners of Valley Road.

Achievements are celebrated in classrooms and corridor displays, and by building in increasing connections via such events as Henley Youth Festival, we aim to develop our future artists and their appreciation of the art around them.