

ART AT VALLEY ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

INTENT

It's our aim that by the time every child leaves Valley Road Primary School they can feel as if they have found an area of the visual arts that is relevant and engaging to them – that might be through drawing, or making, or designing, or talking about art.

To achieve this, we aim to offer as many different kinds of opportunities as possible so that each child can find the thing which strikes a chord with them. That means covering lots of different disciplines, techniques, materials and approaches. We use the *Access Art* scheme to ensure our curriculum provides a balanced yet rich offering, with progression of knowledge and skills woven throughout.

IMPLEMENTATION

We use the Access Art split curriculum and teach one art 'pathway' each term. Over the year pupils will do a pathway from the following key areas

1. Drawing and sketching
2. Printing, colouring and collage
3. Working in different dimensions

Within each pathway, children will play, discover, invent and explore and develop skills and techniques. Each unit will have a warm-up activity, time to appreciate different artwork, techniques or an artist and an artistic challenge. Children also collate their thoughts, feelings and ideas through their very own sketch book.

IMPACT

By the end of their time with us, pupils will:

- Have learned, improved and embedded a range of artistic skills. Talk about their own and others' art with a sense of passion and application of the vocabulary they have learnt.
- Have an awareness of a broad range of artists and craftspeople and be able to consider and discuss the artworks they come across.
- Be confident to explore, experiment and take risks, placing value on the process and journey that they take, not just on the finished product.
- See themselves as artists and most importantly, have found and enjoyed a creative outlet – a means of self-expression and enjoyment.

SUBJECT INTRODUCTION

At Valley Road Primary, art as a subject is valued and taught as a discrete subject. It is important in its own right. Art is important for:

- Unlocking creativity
- Building cultural capital
- Developing artistic skills
- Helping to process emotions

We want children to leave our school with fundamental art skills and be able to use art to make sense of their own thoughts and the wider world. Our art curriculum is designed so our children learn through art as well as about art.



SUBJECT OUTCOMES

We are very proud of our outcomes, which can be seen:

- In sketch books
- On display around the school
- As part of local competitions and community exhibitions and festivals

STRENGTHS

- Children's enjoyment for the subject.
- A curriculum that helps build knowledge and understanding in pupils (and teachers) as to some of the ways art is relevant to all our lives.
- An inspiring curriculum which is carefully created and tailored to our school and adapted to suit their needs.
- Opportunities to learn about a diverse range of artists and craftspeople.
- Use of sketch books to help drive freedom and creativity.
- Oracy through art appreciation.
- Regularly updated online CPD available for staff.
- Whole School art projects and celebrations and links to art festivals in the local community.

INCLUSION

Our Access Art curriculum and teaching approaches are transferable and can be sensitively adapted and processes transformed to meet various needs and for all learners to explore their creative potential. There is a SEND curriculum available but as we have a strong emphasis on the process, and we don't have one way in which we would like outcomes to look, there is a real inclusive nature to this subject.

We also celebrate and explore the work of artists with specific educational learning needs and disabilities.

ART IN EYFS

In EYFS, we offer activities which enable an open-ended, playful exploration of materials, processes and ideas. This matures dexterity skills, promote early understanding of visual literacy and begin to trigger a personal/creative response to stimuli. Access art also offers engaging questions and prompts as part of their EYFS curriculum

SUBJECT ASSESSMENT

Art is a balance between process and product and so we want children to appreciate the work that goes into their final product as much as the finished piece itself. Our assessment is based on three elements:

1. Oracy
2. Empathy
3. Appreciation

We want children to talk about their own product and process, as well as that of others. In assessing art, we value artistic appreciation as well as the life skills of oracy and empathy. We use starting point activities, '*Share, Reflect and Discuss*' and '*Crit in the classroom*' activities to support assessment in class.

TO IMPROVE, OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2025/6 ARE:

- To ensure art scheme is being successfully followed by all staff ensuring balance, progression, and relevance for the children and ensure staff are confident with teaching and assessment of the art curriculum within their year groups.
- To strengthen understanding of progression and assessment in art from EYFS to Year 6, including how skills, vocabulary and creativity build over time.
- To plan and facilitate a whole school art enrichment linked to geography, celebrating diversity of citizens and cultures in our school and world.