

Lewknor C of E Primary School
Art Policy
October 2017 – October 2020

Introduction

Art is an on-going process through which all children are given opportunities to develop specific skills, knowledge and understanding to enable them to work in a variety of media, style and form. It enables children of all abilities to use their creative imagination to achieve their potential with guidance and given criteria. Children work individually and within a group to develop the social and personal skills. Art is not taught in isolation, although it retains its creative base and its skills and techniques. Wherever possible it is linked to other areas of the curriculum and gives children the opportunities to develop specific art skills and reinforces skills already established.

Art contributes to a broad and balanced arts provision for all pupils and is taught as part of the national curriculum. This policy will outline the purpose, nature and management of how art is taught and learned in our school and will inform new teachers of expectations.

The policy reflects the views of all the staff of the school. It has been drawn up following consultation with all staff, governors and children.

Aims and objectives

The school believes that art is a vital part of the education of all children and will try to ensure that art has a high profile. Whilst it may be an enjoyable activity, it is not seen as being solely therapeutic or as a hobby. Art needs to be taught as a subject in its own right. However, it can be used to enrich and extend the teaching of other subjects.

The school's aim is to provide an art curriculum which will enable all children to reach their full potential in learning in art through investigating and making, and through the development of their knowledge and understanding of the subject.

Curriculum organisation

To achieve that aim, the school will plan a range of activities in art which provide opportunities for pupils to:

- record responses, including observations of the natural and made environment;
- gather resources and materials, using them to stimulate and develop ideas;
- explore and use two and three-dimensional media, working on a variety of scales;
- review and modify their work as it progresses;

- develop understanding of the work of artists, craftspeople and designers from a range of times and cultures, applying knowledge to their own work;
- respond to and evaluate art and craft including their own and others' work;
- show development in their ability to create images;
- understand and apply the basic principles of art and craft to include: line, tone, texture, shape, form, space, pattern, colour, contrast, composition, proportion and perspective;
- Realise their ideas and sustain a level of working from start to the completion of a project or a piece of work.

Teaching and Learning

Art will be taught in periods of blocked time allowing for the development of skills and understanding in depth.

Whilst art will at times be related to topic work or other cross-curricular links, teachers also plan specific activities to provide adequate development of the skills, knowledge and understanding associated with the subject. Planned activities will take account of pupils' previous experience in art.

Teaching delivery will vary according to the activities being undertaken, but will include class, group and individual instruction and guidance, exposition and demonstration, and the use of questioning and discussion. Teachers will ensure that the objectives of lessons and the criteria for success are clear to all pupils.

Teaching in art should address the fact that all children will develop their ability to make images and to learn and apply skills at different rates. Differentiation is therefore a key issue and will be open ended and planned differentiation will be by the outcome and by tasks set according to ability. Individual children will be supported by relevant questions from the teacher. These interventions from the teacher to individuals will increase their thinking skills, extend the range of options that may be considered and raise individual standards. There will also be times when the individual needs are met through differentiated tasks. Both approaches need to be used to ensure that all children, including the least and most able, can be working to their full potential in all art lessons.

The school recognises that care in the effective display and presentation of pupils' work and resource materials, and the efficient organisation and presentation of equipment and materials, has a positive effect on pupils' learning and on their respect for the subject.

Use of Sketchbooks

Sketchbooks are used throughout the school to regularly record, collect and explore ideas and images and other information relevant to current and ongoing work. The sketchbook is an essential and personal record although teachers will teach children when it is appropriate to use them and for what purposes. It is also essential that all children use a sketchbook that is similar in format.

The contents of the sketchbook could include:

Experiments with using various marking media drawings in a range of media that are:

- a record of what has been seen (including self-portraits at least once a year);
- preparatory studies for further work;
- the development of ideas for further study;
- a record of the development of basic skills;
- photograph and other illustrative material to support on-going work;
- colour schemes and trials;
- a record of observations seen outside the classroom which will be used as reference material for further work, for example on a school visit;
- details of something that will be drawn or painted in entirety;
- ICT prints and image manipulations.

Sketchbooks are an essential record of an individual child's experiences and ideas throughout a year and key stage and will be seen as evidence for assessment and reporting purposes.

Roles and responsibilities of the subject leader

- to support and guide the practice of teachers and support staff;
- to ensure coverage, continuity and progression in planning;
- to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of art teaching and learning;
- to update documentation where necessary;
- to produce action plans for the School Development Plan, prepare bids and manage the art budget effectively;
- to liaise and consult with outside agencies where appropriate;
- to prepare and lead INSET;
- to attend relevant INSET training;
- to review regularly the contribution made by art to a meaningful curriculum.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Art plays an important part in the life of our school. Children are able to enjoy and achieve. It is available to every child and all children take part in creative activities; making a positive contribution to the life of the school and local community.

Activities both within and outside the classroom are planned in a way that encourages full and active participation by all children, matched to their knowledge, understanding and previous experience.

Children have equal opportunities to develop their understanding and enjoyment of art regardless of race, gender and ability. Every effort will be made to ensure that activities are equally interesting to both boys and girls.

Art from all cultures is valued and teachers ensure that all pupils have access to resources that do not contain racial or ethnic stereotypes. Teachers ensure that the curriculum is appropriate for the needs of the children.

Assessment, Attainment and Progress

Teachers own plans should indicate the focus for each unit of work and assessment opportunities will be identified. The teacher will assess the child's work on a continual basis in order to match their ability to the level descriptions in the national curriculum.

Recording and Reporting

While recording is kept to a minimum it is sufficient to note an individual pupil's progress and to provide guidance for future teaching and learning. The medium term curriculum plans will form in art an aspect of the record of art taught. Annotated weekly planning will inform future planning.

Gathering evidence of pupil attainment is an integral part of assessment, which is built into the schemes of work. Teachers can obtain evidence by direct observation of children at work, questioning pupils or listening to their conversations, and by photographing and recording their finished products.

The art leader monitors teaching and progress in art by:

- informal discussions with teachers, TAs and children;
- an annual resource audit;
- assessing work and progress;
- observing lessons.

Resources

Management, equipment and resources for art are organised to promote effective use by pupils. They are clearly marked or labelled, where appropriate, to allow actual or visual access to the children. Teachers demonstrate the ways in which specific materials or processes will be organised, and pupils are expected to take an increasing level of responsibility for that organisation.

The school is committed to expanding present equipment wherever necessary and possible, and to organising human and physical resources, with the aim of motivating both staff and pupils to take part in creative activities.

The class teacher is responsible for ensuring the safety of the children during the lesson by instructing them in the safe and appropriate use of any equipment. The class teacher is responsible for the general care of the equipment during the lesson by instructing the children in the correct use of the equipment and by replacing them safely after use.

Review

This policy is monitored through:

- Regular scrutiny of children's work
- Regular monitoring and evaluation of planning
- Evaluation and analysis of assessment evidence
- Lesson observations to monitor the quality of teaching and implementation of planning
- Pupil interviews and questionnaires