

The Grange School

The Arts Policy

Reviewed: January 2017

To be reviewed: January 2020

This arts policy has been developed in the context of the overall aims of The Grange School. It is set within a framework that expects and seeks to attain the highest possible achievement from our pupils regardless of their race, sex, disability or background, through the promotion of shared values which we endeavour to uphold and live by.

Vision

Through The Arts (Art and Design, Music, Drama, Dance) we aim to provide dynamic, inclusive artistic and cultural experiences where success is created through exciting opportunities; Discovering joy in learning and sharing learning today for tomorrow's world.

Wherever possible The Arts will contribute to every child learning and applying the skills they need to read and write effectively and provide links to develop children's mathematical learning and ability in relevant ways.

Annually these may take part in a variety of live events such as: drama and dance festivals, art competitions and displays in a range of media and forms, visits to the theatre and Carol Services. All children will have access to opportunities to take part in public performances within an aspect of the arts.

Principles of Learning and Teaching in the Arts

The Arts are important because:

1. They stimulate creativity and imagination through visual, tactile and sensory experiences
2. They provide visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a unique way of understanding and responding to the world
3. They can motivate and promote self-esteem and confidence in all pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
4. Through activities in The Arts children learn to make informed value judgements and aesthetic and practical decisions, becoming actively involved in shaping environments
5. The Arts enable children to explore ideas and emotions through the work of artists, musicians, dancers, actors and designers
6. Children develop understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of The Arts that have the power to enrich their lives

Aims and Objectives

Children will:

1. Develop an understanding and enjoyment of Art and Design, Music, Drama and Dance
2. Explore a range of starting points for practical work, for example themselves and their experiences, images, stories, drama, music, maths, science, natural and made objects, beliefs and faiths, cultures and environments
3. Extend their understanding and appreciation of The Arts from a variety of artists, musicians, actors, dancers and designers working in different times countries and cultures
4. Develop the ability to observe, investigate, respond to and record the world around them through a variety of art forms
5. Develop their artistic, dramatic, musical and creative skills through a skills based curriculum that ensures progression between year groups, using a range of personnel, opportunities, materials and processes including ICT
6. Make increasingly informed and creative choices of media, instruments (including voice) and techniques for a given purpose
7. Use their artistic, musical, dramatic and creative skills to enhance learning and enjoyment in other curriculum areas
8. Have the opportunity to perform creativity and work collaboratively

Definition of 'The Arts'

'The Arts' is defined as Art, Music, Dance and Drama within our school curriculum. Each of these subjects is incorporated into daily planning, teaching and learning to offer a creative curriculum.

Mission Statement

The Grange School is an arts rich school. At the Grange we believe that the arts (including art and design, drama, dance, music, film, media and creative writing) have the power to transform lives. We value and celebrate the contribution that the arts and creativity make on developing the quality of life and life chances for all children. The arts are embedded into the ethos of the school and we have the highest expectations for all our children. We want pupils to love coming to school and be enthusiastic and successful learners. We are passionate about the arts as an entitlement for all children. We believe that every child has an entitlement to a rich, broad, balanced, relevant and inspiring arts education. Arts education must meet the needs of all of our children and we continually strive to promote excellence and aspiration through the arts.

We always strive for excellence in the presentation and performance of children's work in the

arts. We take great pride in our arts rich environment which provides a learning opportunity for teachers, children and the community. We offer all children the opportunity to perform in high quality venues and hold our annual summer show in a professional theatre.

We are committed to ensuring that every child, from nursery to year 6, reaches their full potential and that they access a well-planned, aspirational and personalised pathway to progression in skills, knowledge and understanding of the arts.

Aims

At The Grange we aim to:

1. Provide a broad, inspiring arts curriculum which provides opportunities for imagination, personal discovery and excellence, particularly through music, dance, drama and art.
2. Offer pupils a means of expressing and sharing experiences, feeling and ideas in resourceful, creative ways.
3. Promote an atmosphere of enjoyment and competence where children are self-motivated and strive to achieve their potential.
4. Develop and promote pupils' understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultures and varied social and physical environments in which the live, both locally and globally.
5. Encourage pupils to investigate, make judgments and solve problems.
6. Provide pupils with the necessary language and artistic skills to realise and communicate their intentions and visions.
7. Develop pupils' appreciation and understanding of the work of artists and performers.
8. Raise standards throughout the curriculum by using the arts as a platform for exploration, deeper understanding and enjoyment of other subjects.

Objectives

To achieve these aims, we will:

1. Ensure children of every age, gender, ethnicity, religion, social background and ability have equal and, in certain cases, individualised access to the wide, holistic curriculum we offer at The Grange.
2. Draw on the artistic expertise of staff members and people in the wider communication; parents, carers, governors and artists and performers in the locality who can teach skills, inspire individuals and deepen understanding of different art forms.
3. Provide an extensive range of extracurricular clubs so that children have opportunities to further experience and understand the arts outside of the classroom.
4. Ensure children are given the opportunities to share and celebrate their

achievements in the arts through displays and performances.

5. Ensure staff members are continually developing their own artistic skills and understanding in order to inspire, influence and teach to the highest possible standard.

Provision for the arts

Pupils' entitlement to the arts provision is guaranteed in three key ways:

1. Through a creatively planned and taught curriculum which ensures coverage and progression of key skills and which aims to make as many links between the arts as possible.
2. Through experience linked to the whole school curriculum such as assemblies, singing sessions and concerts.
3. Through pupils own interests. This may be through involvement in after school clubs, arts events and in related performances within the local. Regional and National community.

Teaching and Learning

The arts are taught as part of the thematic approach of the creative curriculum. In their planning, teaching teams identify opportunities, within their cross curricular themes, to develop the key skills of the arts national curriculum as well as in discrete sessions. This enables the specialist teachers to employ powerful and creative teaching approaches tailored to meet the needs of their groups, motivating children so that learning is enriched through interesting topics.

There are opportunities for the children to learn to play a range of instruments, taught in individual/group sessions by peripatetic teachers from Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust. There are also opportunities for gifted and talented children to receive extra curriculum time for dance.

Each term, groups of interested children are recruited and rehearsed to participate in Northamptonshire Arts concerts and performances, local, regional and national Arts Events, the family of schools choral events and others by invitation.

Two large groups now have opportunities to learn to play a stringed instrument, with weekly tuition, in line with wider opportunities.

Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

Assessment through the key stages is continuous and subsequent evaluations inform future planning, matching work to the abilities and needs of the children.

Analysis of data and monitoring indicates which children are working at and above expectations.

ICT

ICT packages and software programmes are used to support the arts throughout the school.

Links to the School Improvement Plan

1. The school is undertaking the Artsmark Award to develop the arts throughout the curriculum
2. The arts team produce action plans annually outlining the targets for the year
3. An audit of the resources is taken annually.

Health and Safety

Care is taken to ensure that all instruments and equipment is handled carefully and under supervision. Care is also taken to ensure that the environment for dance is clean, warm and free from obstructions.

Equal Opportunities

We passionately believe that all children are entitled to access our curriculum irrespective of age, gender, race, religion and social background. We feel that our approach to a creative curriculum and thematic teaching means that the arts make a vital contribution to the development of tolerance and understanding.

We also aim to make access to the arts inclusive for children with special education needs (SEN). Their progress is monitored and necessary help and support is provided to ensure they reach their full potential. This is reflected in specialist teachers' planning where children with specific needs are identified and differentiated for.

We also track pupils acknowledged as More Able to ensure they are challenged to achieve their best.

Policies for Equal Opportunities, Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Pupils who are More Able provide further details of our vision for a teaching and learning environment where everyone and their differences are valued, respected and nurtured.

Arts Provision outside the Curriculum

At The Grange we continually aim to develop our extended provision for all pupils across all art forms. We ask the children for their thoughts and ideas about the provision they would most prefer to participate in and use their responses to decide what we offer. We also utilise staff members' strengths across the arts to offer children the best extended opportunities as possible.

We continually seek to develop our extended art provision which includes:

1. Visiting theatres and dance projects
2. Peripatetic music teachers
3. Visiting musicians
4. Providing visits to museums, galleries, places of worship, theatre productions and musical concerts
5. Participation in drama, dance and music performances locally and nationally.
6. Weekly singing sessions
7. Becoming involved with local and national initiatives

8. Links with other Primary Schools within our Cluster of Schools and with our Secondary Schools