

Art Curriculum Statement

Intent

Art, craft and design embody some of the highest forms of human creativity and Alverton School believes it has a vital and valuable role in the taught curriculum. We endeavour to create a high quality art and design education that engages, inspires and challenges pupils, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and purpose to invent, create and experiment within the field of art and design. All pupils are taught to think critically about their own and others' work, develop an understanding of media and materials through experimentation and through sequential lessons as well as an understanding of how art has shaped our history and contributed to our culture.

Implementation

At Alverton, the subject of Art and Design is incorporated into our project-based approach teaching and learning. Children are taught skills appropriate to their age and ability that link to the overarching topic that is providing the stimuli and focus for that term's learning. A range of materials and applications are taught through all key stages and skills that have been taught earlier in a child's experience are frequently revisited and built upon as they progress through the school. The children are taught to look closely at their own and others' work, evaluate and critique in order to improve their own work, gain greater understanding of a piece of work and understand and incorporate new vocabulary and understanding.

In the EYFS, children have access to a wide range of materials through continuous provision. Specific skills, such as collage or the use of pastels are taught to children who are then given lots of opportunities to return to the media and materials in order to practice these new skills independently.

Children in Year 3 are introduced to sketchbook work and these are used at the beginning of schemes of work to practice pencil skills, record their observations and review and revisit ideas. The sketch books follow the children through the school and clearly show a progression of skills.

Children are also taught about great artists, architects and designers in history. There are clear links between Art and other curriculum areas, including humanities, with children developing a knowledge of individual artists, works of art and art movements. For example, Frida Kahlo has been studied as part of a project about other cultures (Mexico), Henri Rousseau through an "Explorers" focus and, through a topic on Australia, an exploration and understanding of Aboriginal art was undertaken. In the past children have made Death Masks as part of their studies on Egypt, painted portraits as part of their work on Tudor History and made Totem poles when studying North American Indians.

Impact

Children are aware of the importance of Art and Design in our heritage and the wide variety of cultural diversity that it can represent. They are confident to apply their skills and knowledge about materials and media across a range of topics and strive to improve their work through specific suggestions about how to improve their work.

Children at Alverton School have a myriad of opportunities to not only create beautiful art works for display around the school and in living history museum events but also to have their work displayed in art galleries around our local area. Children have in the past exhibited at Penlee Park Gallery and PZ Gallery as final outcomes for their projects enabling parents and the local community to see and celebrate their work.