

Saint Marys Catholic Primary School



Art and Design Policy

Reviewed January 2026

WE GROW WITH JESUS TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE
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Intention Statement:

At St Marys we want our pupils to enjoy Art and to express their individual spiritual, moral and social understanding. They will develop an appreciation of art and create expressively. They gather the skills to experiment, invent and create and evaluate their own works of Art. We emphasise subject specific vocabulary because at St Mary's we have many children with English as their second language. The knowledge, skills, vocabulary and enjoyment taught at St Mary's will enable pupils to develop their art in Secondary school and further.

Implementation:

Art is taught through our blocked curriculum and is taught in 2-week blocks in the afternoon over the unit from a sequenced and cumulative medium-term plan. At St Mary's Art is taught as a discrete subject, with links being made to other areas of the curriculum where possible. St Mary's follows the National Curriculum for Art in all year groups to enable children to make good progress from EYFS to Year 6. The school uses the Lancashire planning as a basis/ resource for what we teach. Lessons are taught in a unit with half a term spent on each unit- at least 3 over the Academic year. Assessment is tracked on the school assessment system of Arbor in December and June. There is an end of unit assessment and mini-assessment quizzes mid unit to check pupil's understanding.

Introduction

At St Mary's we believe Art can have a powerful and positive effect on a school. It lifts the esteem of the children and provides opportunities for them to express their individual interests, thoughts and ideas.

We want our Art curriculum to promote enjoyable, memorable learning experiences and develop an individual's spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. We aim to deliver a broad curriculum, including culturally and ethnically diverse artists. We want to celebrate our own diversity by sharing our experiences of the world with each other and transform them through art. As a staff we want to encourage our children to think critically, develop their own styles and reach their full potential.

Art and Design is a foundation subject in the National Curriculum. This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of the Art and Design taught in our school.

Art is an expression of ideas and emotions. At our school we strive to encourage children to develop their imagination and explore personal expression. Art gives children the chance to think critically and develop socially through collaborative working.

Like all subject areas, in Art and Design all children should have the opportunity to learn and explore ideas regardless of ability, race, religion, language or gender.

Aims

The curriculum for Art and Design aims to ensure that all pupils:

- produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
- become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques
- evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design
- know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

Teaching Objectives

Practical experiences are central to this subject. Children need to explore and develop their own thoughts, feelings and be given opportunities to express themselves. They also need to be given time to evaluate their work and the work of others.

EYFS

In EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage), art is taught primarily through **Expressive Arts and Design**, focusing on open-ended, sensory exploration of materials (paint, clay, natural items) to build creativity, imagination, and skills like mark-making, colour mixing, and using tools, blending child-initiated play with guided adult activities to foster self-expression and communication, rather than separate subject-based lessons. Children learn about texture, shape, and colour, developing fine motor skills and understanding how media can represent feelings and ideas through a themed basis. At St Mary's there is a daily opportunity through continuous provision for pupils to create, draw, cut and colour.

Key Stage 1

Pupils should be taught:

- to use a range of materials creatively to design and make products
- to use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination
- to develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space
- about the work of a range of artists, craft makers and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work.

Key Stage 2

Pupils should be taught to develop their techniques, including their control and their use of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design.

Pupils should be taught:

- to create sketch books to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas
- to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials
- about great artists, architects and designers in history.

Principles of Teaching and Learning

Art and Design is taught from Year 1 through to Year 6 as part of a thematic approach, using the Lancashire Scheme of Work. St Mary's follows the National Curriculum for Art and D&T in all year groups to enable children to make good progress from EYFS to Year 6. The school uses the Lancashire planning as a basis for what we teach. The school uses the Lancashire planning as a basis/ resource for what we teach. Lessons are taught in a unit with half a term spent on each unit- at least 3 over the Academic year. Assessment is tracked on the school assessment system of Arbor in December and June. There is an end of unit assessment and mini-assessment quizzes mid unit to check pupil's understanding.

Teachers from Year 1 to Year 6 will plan to ensure the full coverage of the skills relating to the Art and Design curriculum for each year group throughout the year, following the long- and medium-term plans. Teachers will use the key disciplinary skills that will be covered in the unit- this will also be on the knowledge organiser. They will then develop, and plan lessons connected to each skill. The teaching method will vary according to age and children will be given the opportunity to work individually, in groups and as a whole class.

Skills in the Foundation Stage are planned through the objects within the EYFS. We provide a continuous provision in which we encourage and value creativity. Children experience a wide range of activities that they respond to, using the various senses, particularly focusing on mark making and creativity using a variety of medium.

The Art and Design subject leader will monitor the experiences and work undertaken by children throughout the school to ensure the curriculum is balanced and related to age expectations.

Assessment

As in all areas of the curriculum, assessment is an important part of the teaching process. At St Mary's teachers use Quizzes, work in sketch books and end of unit outcomes to assess the Art & Design skills for each year group. Teachers baseline the children at the end of the

Autumn Term and then reassess at the end of the Summer Term to show the progress made by children on Arbor.

Teachers should monitor children's work during lessons and use their observations, artwork produced by the children and written evidence to assess children's development of skills. Teachers are encouraged to keep an end of unit piece of work for each planned unit of Art and D&T and to use that to help them assess the skills taught.

Any pupils who are identified as not making expected progress during will receive additional support during lessons. Additionally, if pupils are working below their age group Teachers will put structured support in place in order to help them make progress.

Teacher's in KS1 maintain a portfolio of artwork in sketch books, while in KS2 a collection of Art evidence is also created in their sketchbooks. Teachers should refer to these when assessing the children's Art and D&T skills in each year group.

Children's progress is made available to parents on each child's annual report at the end of each academic year.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring of Art is carried out termly by the Art Co-ordinator. Best practice for Art is identified and shared amongst practitioners. Samples of planning and work will be collected. The subject leader will also monitor attitudes throughout the year using pupil questionnaires.

Organisation of Resources

Teaching Assistants, students and classroom volunteers will work under the guidance of the class teacher.

All Art resources are stored and labelled in the KS1 area. If Art resources are needed, staff will notify the Art and Design subject leader.

Special Educational Needs

We believe all children should have the same access to Art and Design. We aim to provide learning opportunities that allow all children to make progress. It is the responsibility of each class teacher to ensure the individual needs of each child are met through appropriate differentiation and support.

Health and Safety

Children should always be working in a safe environment, both in and out of school. Children should be taught how to use tools correctly and safely. When working outdoors or off premises children should be properly supervised and made aware of any potential danger or hazards.

Parental Involvement

As with all areas of children's learning, the support of parents and carers helps to enrich a child's learning experience. This includes helping their child with any research or homework which may be set or asking parents to send in artefacts linked to topics of learning.

Art & Design Co-ordinator: M Hunt

Due for review 2028