



Art progression of knowledge, skills and vocabulary

Our Art curriculum enables pupils to develop as creative, confident and expressive learners. Our approach is rooted in four overarching concepts that reflect the uniqueness of our school community and support children in understanding themselves and the world around them: Identity & Belonging, Exploration & Observation, Expression & Mood, and Form, Texture & Structure. These concepts underpin all teaching and ensure that pupils learn how art can represent who we are, show the world around us, express feelings and create form, while building strong foundations in early mark-making, observation and exploration.

Learning is practical, exploratory and rooted in hands-on experience.

Through a carefully sequenced progression of learning, pupils explore a range of media including drawing, painting, sculpture, collage and printing. They build their knowledge of artists, artistic techniques and visual language, developing the ability to make choices, improve their work and talk about what they have created using subject-specific vocabulary.

Our Art curriculum prepares pupils for Key Stage 2 by developing creative confidence, control of tools and techniques, and the ability to talk about and respond to artwork, ensuring children begin to see themselves as artists and value creativity as a meaningful form of expression.

Bridge Statement – EYFS to Key Stage 1

In EYFS, children explore materials, experiment with colour, texture and form, and represent themselves and their experiences through mark-making and model making. These foundations lead into Key Stage 1 where pupils develop increasing control of tools, begin to apply techniques with purpose, make artistic choices and talk about their work. The four overarching Art concepts provide continuity between EYFS exploratory learning and Key Stage 1 development.

Progression of Substantive (Sticky) Knowledge			
Aspect / Strand	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2
Identity and belonging (Drawing and Collage)	I know I can use materials to represent myself, my family or my community.	I know that artists use colour, texture, shape and composition to represent identity and belonging.	I know that artists make choices about imagery, detail and arrangement to communicate meanings about people, places and personal stories.
Exploration and Observation (Drawing and painting)	I know I can use lines and shapes to show what I see.	I know that different lines, marks and shapes can show detail, pattern and movement.	I know that tone, texture, scale and composition help drawings look expressive and detailed.
Expression and Mood (Painting)	I know colours can be mixed and changed	I know that colour mixing can show mood, temperature or atmosphere.	I know that artists use brushwork, layering and colour choices to convey emotion or memory.
Form, Texture and Structure (Sculpture)	I know materials can be shaped and joined to make simple 3D forms.	I know that sculptures are three-dimensional and can be viewed from different angles.	I know that artists use pattern, texture and structure to show features found in nature.

Working as an Artist			
Skill area	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2
Generating Ideas	I can choose materials, colours and tools for a purpose.	I can develop and communicate ideas through drawing, sketching, collage or 3D exploration.	I can refine ideas through testing, sketching and reviewing artist inspiration.

Making	I can use simple tools safely.	I can use a growing range of tools to explore line, colour, texture, form and pattern.	I can use increasing control in drawing, painting, sculpting and printing to show detail, expression and structure.
Evaluating	I can talk about what I made and why.	I can describe artistic choices and talk about what worked well.	I can evaluate how effectively my work communicates ideas and suggest refinements.
Knowledge of Artists	I can look at and talk about art.	I can notice features in artists' work and recognise different media.	I can compare artists' styles, techniques and ideas and link these to my own work.

Core Vocabulary			
Tier	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2
Tier 2	explore, choose, change	express, feeling, identity, community, belonging, meaning, journey, discovery, imagination	place, environment, belonging, memory, emotion, meaning, culture, diversity
Tier 3	line, colour, shape, paint, clay	collage, print, texture, pattern, shape, sculpture, form, material, painting, colour, tone, brushstroke, primary colours, secondary colours	drawing, line, shape, texture, tone, perspective, colour, mark-making, tint, sculpture, form, structure, material

