



Art and Design

Intent

At Westfields Infant School, we want children to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to access the next stage in their learning. In addition to this, we actively encourage and motivate the children to develop positive attitudes, skills and habits so that they are well equipped for the future.

At Westfields Infant School, we aim for children to discover a passion for art and design that will enable them to have a voice, nurture their identity and provide opportunities for self-expression. Art and design not only teaches specific skills and techniques but also has a key role to play in children's cognitive development and social and emotional success. Art and design provides all children with the opportunity to express themselves imaginatively, celebrating diversity and developing their understanding of, and response to, the world around them.

It is our aim for each child to relish the opportunity to create in both a creative and more structured way and develop their appreciation for art work produced by peers and a range of artists. We provide the children with opportunities to draw, paint, sculpt and print to develop techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space. The children learn to use a range of different materials to design and make products, having the chance to discuss and reflect on their work through encouraged dialogue – beginning to think critically and reflectively about what they see whilst building upon prior experiences of each skill and technique.

At Westfields Infant School, our art and design curriculum has been developed based on the Early Learning Goal 'Creating with Materials' from within the [Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#) and the [Art & Design National Curriculum](#).

The National 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.

Implementation

Children are taught and develop artistic skills and explore the work by a range of artists through a broad and balanced curriculum which features cross-curricular links where appropriate. An example of this is where Reception children learn the skill of scrunching and use this to create a spring blossom tree piece of work which link to their learning of observational changes of the natural environment that happens throughout the year and links to the Understanding the World Early Learning Goal.

In Reception, planning is informed by the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage which identifies an Early Learning Goal for each of the seven areas of learning - including 'Expressive Arts and Design' which holds the closest links to art and design as an area for learning

and development. In Key Stage 1, planning is informed by the National Curriculum for Art and Design.

When children begin their education with us at Westfields Infant School, in Reception, each child will have a varying range of experiences with various artistic media and skills. Throughout this final year of the Early Years Framework, children are given opportunities to explore a broad range of skills which are practised through purposeful activities as well as opportunities to use learnt skills independently to discover their artistic passions and build upon their development from throughout the year. As children move into Key Stage 1, they explore these skills in more detail and develop purpose and control.

Across both the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, children explore the artwork by a range of artists. These artists vary in many ways: their gender; artistic media; location of origin; use of colour and features; and, the cultural influence behind their creations.

At Westfields Infant School, we value the importance for children to develop an understanding of the origin of many artistic styles and provide opportunities to explore their substantive knowledge (factual/theoretical and practical) and their disciplinary knowledge (the artistic skills) of these styles to broaden their understanding of the use of art round the world.

Enrichment opportunities support children to broaden their understanding of the use of art in the world as well as inspiring them to use their artistic skills and imagination in a wider range of areas and elements of their education and lives. Enrichment activities at Westfields Infant School include:

- Christmas card designing – each child creates a Christmas card within school which can be purchased by parents
- Christmas decorations – each class creates Christmas decorations which are entered into a competition so we can celebrate the time of year alongside our use of artistic skills to create.
- Poster competitions – throughout the year the children have opportunities to create posters around various topics e.g. recycling and looking after our planet
- Safer Internet Day – children are given the opportunity to design their own piece of technology that they think will be invented one day
- Art Club – an afterschool art club provides opportunities for using a wide range of artistic skills to create various pieces to be displayed around school and at gallery opportunities
- Art Gallery – children create artwork based on their recent learning and acquisition of skills to be displayed in classrooms, corridors and gallery opportunities to celebrate their creations
- World Religion Day – children create a piece of artwork based on the religion they have been learning about. These pieces of artwork are created using a range of artistic media

Impact

The impact of our art and design learning can be seen within books, on classroom and whole school displays and by speaking to the children themselves. We measure the impact regularly through:

- Whole class and verbal feedback
- Recapping prior learning at the beginning of each lesson and plenary activities
- Teacher assessment, self-assessment and peer assessment of learning
- Completion of the Art and Design Foundation Subject Assessment document at the end of each unit, identifying children not achieving expected standard and those exceeding
- Subject monitoring e.g. pupil conferencing, book monitoring and planning monitoring

By the time our children leave Westfields Infant School, they demonstrate curiosity and enjoyment for art and design. They ask questions, experiment with media and they can make links between artists and their own work. The children not only develop skills within art lessons but begin to make links in other areas of the curriculum, such as history, geography and maths. Through encouraging children to value each stage of their learning journey, from experiments through to creating final pieces, they leave Westfields Infant School with developed proficiency of the key skills, improved confidence and a sense of pride in their creative abilities.