



Where Everyone Is Valued

ART POLICY

Intent

At Wrenthorpe Academy, we aim for all Art lessons to be creative and inspiring. Children learn about a wide range of artists and artistic styles/movements on their journey throughout school. They also have opportunities to develop their artistic skill by practising a variety of techniques, such as: sketching, painting, sculpture. Children work towards creating a 'final piece', inspired by the artist they are studying, which is a culmination of applying everything they have learnt throughout their Art lessons. Evaluation is also a key part of children completing their art work, encouraging children to think about what they have done well/how they might want to improve their work.

Implementation

Art is planned to be engaging and creative, linking in a cross-curricular way to RE, History or Geography topics wherever possible. Children have the opportunity to research artists (using ICT) to create 'mood boards' in their sketch books. This initial exploration of the artist is a very important process, exposing children to a wide range of the artist's work, style and technique. It also allows children to use their 'mood board' as inspiration for their own art work.

Children have time to practise 'in the style of' their artist by experimenting with similar materials that the artist would use. As children move through school, they have opportunities to use a wide range of materials, such as different grades of pencils, charcoal, chalk, powder paint, ink, water colours, clay, wire, etc. Children are taught in an environment where they feel comfortable to experiment, and make mistakes, in their sketch books, whilst being encouraged to keep practising to develop their artistic skill to the best of their abilities. Children create inspired pieces of work that they can be proud of, and can demonstrate their reflective thinking through self-evaluation.

Art is also a main driver for our annual 'Arts Fortnight', enabling children to develop an understanding that Art is closely interwoven with creativity that can be expressed in many different forms, such as drama, writing, dance, music, etc. The 'Arts Fortnight' also develops children's understanding of global current affairs, with themes such as 'Plastic Pollution' and 'Climate Change', encouraging children to think as 'global citizens'.

Children can also experience Art, whenever possible, through school trips. Venues such as The Hepworth Gallery, Leeds Art Gallery and Yorkshire Sculpture Park are particularly important to allow children to learn about, and be inspired by, well-known local artists such as Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore.

Impact

We want children to be aware of their own creative capabilities, beginning to identify their own creative style/flare, using Art as a form of self-expression. We also want children to see the art that is all around them in everyday life, developing an appreciation of a wide range of artists and styles of art, both realistic and abstract. Children have an awareness that art is interpreted differently by every individual, therefore it is acceptable for them to form an opinion about the art they are studying, whether they like or dislike certain pieces of artwork. Children should also develop an understanding of the links between art and how it often reflects many thought-provoking and significant elements of human existence, such as: historic periods in time (conflict, poverty, etc); religious beliefs; artists pushing the boundaries of what 'art' actually is.

Policy Statement

At Wrenthorpe Academy, we aim for children to be creatively inspired, enriched and challenged by Art. All children will have the opportunity to develop their own artistic skill, whilst learning about great artists of both the past and present. On their journey through school, children will develop a wider knowledge and understanding of different artistic styles and techniques, which will support their ability to explore and express their creativity through art, as well as encouraging them to develop an appreciation for a wide range of art.

Approaches to Learning

Art is taught across school as the main focus of a topic for three half terms over the course of a two year rolling programme. A wide variety of approaches are used to ensure children can think as Artists. Children learn through: researching a range of artists and artistic styles; using and exploring a variety of different materials; analysing and evaluating pieces of art; artist workshops; and themed days or weeks within school.

Planning

Art is consistently planned, based on the National Curriculum, to be creative and engaging for all children. It is planned to be delivered within/alongside History, Geography or RE-based topics for three half terms over the course of a two year rolling programme.

Equal Opportunities

Every child in school benefits from the Art curriculum. Lessons are planned to meet the needs of every child in the class. When teaching and learning is being delivered outside the usual classroom environment, health and safety checks are carried out to ensure a safe and secure learning experience for all children.

SEND/EAL

When planning art topics, we work hard to ensure pupils with barriers such as SEN or EAL are catered for. Art can sometimes be used as a specific intervention on some children's 'Supporting Me To Learn' plans. We strive to ensure that all pupils can access the art curriculum to the best of their abilities.

Early Years

Art is not only taught to children in Years 1-6, but is also an integral part of learning in the EYFS. Art is mainly delivered within the 'Exploring and Using Media and Materials' section of the EYFS, focusing on the 40-60m, Early Learning Goals and Exceeding statements. Furthermore, Art is also planned for and taught as a cross-curricular approach within the topics being taught in EYFS. Art equipment (such as pencils, colouring pencils, crayons, felt tips, paints, modelling equipment, etc) is always readily available within the EYFS classrooms, which children enjoy independently choosing to access.

Resources

Resources are a key part of Art to allow children to experiment and create pieces of art inspired by the great artists they learn about. Many Art resources are kept both in classrooms and in the school resource cupboard. There are a range of paints, paintbrushes, pastels, clay, mod-roc, wax, etc.

Links with Other Subjects

Art is encouraged to be taught using a cross-curricular approach. Children are given the opportunity to apply other skills – such as History and Geography – during Art lessons. Furthermore, Art can be accessed during other lessons or topics. 'The Arts' are also promoted across school, delivering an 'Arts Fortnight', which is an immersive whole-school approach that provides children with opportunities to explore many creative areas, including Art, Drama, Music, Dance, and Creative Writing.