



ART AND DESIGN POLICY 2025

Our vision for Art and Design

"All children are artists" – Pablo Picasso

Through a positive nurturing environment, we provide the opportunity for every child to reach their full potential. We embrace our key Christian values and ensure all children are ready for their next steps.

Introduction

At Newchurch St Nicholas CofE Primary School, we are committed to providing all children with a wide range of learning opportunities to engage in Art and Design. We do this by following the Access Art curriculum. This curriculum is broad, rich, contemporary & diverse.

It's our intent that by the time every child leaves Newchurch St. Nicholas CofE Primary School they can feel as if they have found an area of the visual arts that is relevant and engaging to them – that might be through drawing, making, designing, or talking about art.

To achieve this it's important that we create as many different kinds of opportunities as possible so that each child can find the thing which strikes a chord with them. That means covering lots of different disciplines, techniques, materials and approaches.

In practice, that might mean one day a child is practicing observational drawing skills, another day they are working from their imagination making larger-scale images, and another day they are discussing as a class how the context in which art is presented can change its meaning. The richness and relevance of experience makes learning memorable and impactful.

Aims

The aims of the National Curriculum for Art and Design are:

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

Curriculum

At Newchurch St. Nicholas CofE primary school, we teach art and design through the Access Art curriculum. The ethos of the curriculum says;

We teach art because it is one way we can enable children to reach their creative potential. Every child is entitled to develop their critical and creative thinking skills, and to build their knowledge and understanding of materials and techniques, developing their experience of how they can make a creative response to a variety

of stimulus, and our role as teachers is to facilitate this journey. Our core aim is to enable creativity, we place an emphasis on encouraging exploratory journeys, working towards varied and individual outcomes.

Our offering to pupils should be broad and rich, contemporary and diverse. By keeping our understanding of all discipline areas (drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture etc) as open as possible we ensure that we keep art as inclusive and accessible to every child.

Teaching art can and should be as rigorous and disciplined as any other subject. Enabling open-ended creative learning actually requires teachers to understand the structures and spaces pupils need to work to their best.

Art is subjective and experiential – and there are many types of “knowledge” all of which are best understood when the knowledge is embedded in experience.

We cannot and should not apply the same metrics to art as to other subjects. Art is a unique subject to teach/facilitate and we should embrace that fact.

Through enabling pupils to think about the purpose of art and artists to all our lives, we will ensure that as children grow they feel entitled to express and better understand themselves (and the world in which they live) through making and talking about art. Through this creative entitlement we help nurture citizens who feel empowered to help shape community and society for the better.

Early Years

The Early Years framework states that the development of children’s artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts. The frequency, repetition and depth of their experiences are fundamental to their progress in interpreting and appreciating what they hear, respond to and observe.

At Newchurch St. Nicholas CofE Primary School, we enable this through the Access Art Curriculum. During the Early Years, young children will be given the opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding through 7 key areas of exploration;

- What can we see?
- How can we explore colour?
- How can we build worlds?
- How can we explore materials and marks?
- How can we explore 3D materials?
- How can we use our bodies to make art?
- How can we use our imaginations?

Lessons provide children with activities that enable an open-ended, playful exploration of materials, processes and ideas, which in turn nurture dexterity skills, promote an early understanding of visual literacy skills, and begin to build the child's confidence in their ability to make a personal, creative response to a stimuli.

Together these opportunities provide a foundation for pupils to develop skills further in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Key stage 1

The National Curriculum states that 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.

At Newchurch St. Nicholas CofE Primary School, we enable this through the Access Art Curriculum. During Key Stage 1, children will be taught through five different pathways. These are:

- Drawing and sketchbooks.
- Print, colour, and collage.
- Working in three dimensions.
- Paint, surface, and texture.
- Collaboration and community.

Key stage 2

The National Curriculum states that 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. They 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 [for example, pencil, charcoal, paint, clay].
- about great artists, architects and designers in history.

At Newchurch St. Nicholas CofE Primary School, we enable this through the Access Art Curriculum. During Key Stage 2, children will be taught through five different pathways. These are:

- Drawing and sketchbooks.
- Print, colour, and collage.
- Working in three dimensions.
- Paint, surface, and texture.
- Collaboration and community.

Progression and Continuity

The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in art and design lessons. Our principal aim is to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding. There are many ways of succeeding in art- for some children looking at and talking about art will be their skill, for other children drawing skills will be their strength, for others making. We don't want or need to make sure all children succeed equally in all

areas. Children will progress all skills, but our curriculum enables everyone to celebrate each child's particular strength. The development of the pupils as a whole person is important.

There are 48 disciplines, skills, behaviours, and traits taught through the five pathways. These are repeated regularly to allow for progression and continuity.

Special Educational Needs

We teach art and design to all pupils, with due regard to their ability. Teachers will provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of pupils with learning difficulties and this ensures that a broad and balanced curriculum is available to all. Teachers will adapt units for the needs of children with SEN if needed and take into account targets set in Individual Education Plans (IEPS).

Assessment

At Newchurch St. Nicholas CofE Primary School, assessment is an integral part of the teaching process. Assessment is used to inform planning. The assessment of children's work is on-going to ensure that understanding is being achieved and progress is being made. Along with these assessments, the children are assessed termly using our coverage and assessment overview. This highlights children who are working below, developing or securely in art and design.

Monitoring

The Subject Leader monitors the quality of teaching/learning in Art and Design across the school. Each child has an individual portfolio which serves as a cumulative record of their work and is passed on to the next teacher at the end of the year. Samples of children's work are collected in these portfolios. Monitoring takes place regularly through lesson observations and book scrutiny. The subject leader keeps a portfolio of evidence and reviews Art and Design when there is a priority highlighted on the School Development Plan.

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