

ART AND DESIGN POLICY: Spring 2018

*Colehill First School is a Rights Respecting School. As such it is committed to upholding children's rights and promoting their responsibilities under the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
The contents of this policy are fully in keeping with this commitment.*

Introduction

Art and design stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a special way of understanding and responding to the world around us. It enables children to communicate what they see, feel and think through the use of colour, texture, form, pattern and different materials and processes. Children become involved in shaping their environments through art and design activities. They learn to make informed judgements and aesthetic and practical decisions. They explore ideas and meanings through the work of artists and designers. Through learning about the roles and functions of art, they can explore the impact it has on contemporary life and that of different times and cultures. The appreciation of visual arts enriches all of our lives.

Aims

The aims of art and design are

- to enable children to record from first hand experience and from imagination, and to select their own ideas to use in their work;
- to develop creativity and imagination through a range of complex activities;
- to improve the children's ability to control materials, tools and techniques;
- to increase their critical awareness of the roles and purposes of art and design in different times and cultures;
- to develop increasing confidence in the use of visual and tactile elements and materials;
- to foster an enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts and a knowledge of artists, craftspeople and designers.

Teaching and learning style

The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in art and design sessions. Our principle aim is to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding in art and design. We ensure that the act of investigating and making something includes exploring and developing ideas, and evaluating and developing work. We do this through a mixture of whole class teaching and individual/group activities. Teachers and teaching assistants draw attention to good examples of individual performance as models for the other children. We encourage children to evaluate their own ideas and methods, and the work of others, and say what they think and feel about them. We give children the opportunity within lessons to work on their own and collaborate with others, on projects in two and three dimensions and on different scales. Children also have the opportunity to use a wide range of materials and resources, including ICT.

We recognise the fact that we have children of differing ability in all our classes, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this through a range of strategies:

- setting common tasks that are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty where not all children complete all tasks;
- grouping children by ability and setting different tasks for each group;
- providing a range of challenges with different resources;
- using additional adults to support the work of individual children or small groups.

Art and design curriculum planning

Art and design is a foundation subject in the National Curriculum. At Colehill First School we use school developed schemes of work as the basis for our curriculum planning in art and design. We have adapted the national scheme to the local circumstances of our school in that we use the local environment as the starting point for aspects of our work.

We carry out the curriculum planning in art and design in three phases: long-term, medium-term and short-term. Our long-term plan maps out the themes covered in each term during the key stage. Our art and design subject leader works this out in conjunction with teaching colleagues in each year group.

Our medium-term plans give details of each unit of work for each term. These plans define what we will teach and ensure an appropriate balance and distribution of work across each term. The art and design subject leader is responsible for keeping and reviewing these plans.

We plan the activities in art and design so that they build upon the prior learning of the children. While we give children of all abilities opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding, we also build planned progression into the scheme of work, so that there is an increasing challenge for the children as they move up through the school.

The Foundation Stage

We encourage creative work in the reception class as this is part of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum. We relate the creative development of the children to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals, which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. The children's learning includes art, music, dance, role-play and imaginative play. The range of experience encourages children to make connections between one area of learning and another and so extends their understanding.

We provide a rich environment in which we encourage and value creativity. Children experience a wide range of activities that they respond to, using the various senses. We give them the opportunity to work alongside artists and other adults. The activities that they take part in are imaginative and enjoyable.

Contribution of art and design to teaching in other curriculum areas

English

Art and design contributes to the teaching of English in our school by encouraging children to ask and answer questions about the starting points for their work. They have the opportunity to compare ideas, methods and approaches in their own work and that of other children, and to say what they think and feel about them.

Mathematics

Art and design contributes to the teaching of mathematics in our school by giving opportunities to develop the children's understanding of shape and space through work in two and three dimensions.

Information and communication technology (ICT)

We use ICT to support art and design teaching when appropriate. Children use software to explore shape, colour and pattern in their work. Older children collect visual information to help them develop their ideas by using digital cameras to record their observations. Children use the internet to find out more about famous artists and designers.

Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship

Art and design contributes to the teaching of some elements of personal, social and health education and citizenship. The children discuss how they feel about their own work and the methods and approaches used by others. They have the opportunity to meet and talk with artists and other talented adults whilst undertaking their work.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

The teaching of art and design offers opportunities to support the social development of our children through the way we expect them to work with each other in lessons. Groupings allow children to work together and given them the chance to discuss their ideas and feelings about their own work and the work of others. Their work in general helps them to develop and respect for the abilities of other children and encourages them to collaborate and co-operate across a range of activities and experiences. The children learn to respect and work with each other and with adults, thus developing a better understanding of themselves. They also develop an understanding of different times, cultures and religions through their work on famous artists, designers and craftspeople.

Teaching art and design to children with special needs

At our school we teach art and design to all children, whatever their ability. Art and design forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our art and design teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. Assessment against the National Curriculum allows us to consider each child's attainment and progress against expected levels.

When progress falls significantly outside the expected range, the child may have special educational needs. Our assessment process looks at a range of factors – classroom organisation, teaching materials, teaching style, differentiation – so that we can take some additional or different action to enable the child to learn more effectively. This ensures that our teaching is matched to the child's needs.

Intervention through School Action and School Action Plus will lead to the creation of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for children with special educational needs. The IEP may include, as appropriate, specific targets relating to art and design.

We enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning art and design. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom, for example, a visit to an art gallery, we carry out a risk assessment prior to the activity, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

Assessment and recording

We assess the children's work in art and design whilst observing them working during lessons. Teachers record the progress made by children against the learning objectives for their lessons. At the end of each year the children are assessed to see if they have met the Age Related Expectations for art. This information is used by the teacher to make an annual assessment of progress for each child, as part of the child's annual report to parents. This information is also passed on to the next teacher.

The art and design subject leader keeps digital evidence of the children's work on the school's shared drive. This demonstrates what the expected level of achievement is in art and design in each year of the school.

Resources

We have a wide range of resources to support the teaching of art and design across the school. All our classrooms have a range of basic resources, but we keep the more specialised equipment in the stock-cupboard. Teacher resources such as books and posters are kept in the resource room.

Monitoring and review

The monitoring of the standards of children’s work and of the quality of teaching in art and design is the responsibility of the art and design subject leader. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of art and design, being informed about current developments in the subject, and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. A curriculum review is made annually by the subject leader which reports on achievements and indicates areas for further improvement.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed at least once every two years or more frequently if necessary, by the Design and Technology curriculum leader and the academy committee.

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Position: Chair of Academy Committee

Date of policy: 16th January 2016

Date of review: 20th February 2018

Next scheduled review: Spring term 2020

This policy has been reviewed in line with the 9 principles set out in the Single Equality Policy and an initial screening Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out.