



St Nicholas and St Laurence School Arts Policy

This policy was reviewed in the Spring Term 2018
It will be reviewed in Spring term 2020

Together we love, together we hope, together we learn.....

“Art and Design is not just a subject to learn but an activity that you can practice: with your hands, your eyes, and your whole personality.”

[Quentin Blake, Children’s Laureate]

At St Nicholas and St Laurence Primary School we actively encourage our children to develop artistic awareness and acquire skills, knowledge and understanding to express individual ideas.

Our Arts curriculum is linked to other areas of learning where possible to ensure creative opportunities are embedded into many subjects.

Definition

The Arts can be defined as subjects, which provide visual, tactile and sensory experiences. They enable each individual to respond to and become more fully aware of the world in which they live. This is believed to build a balanced personality.

The arts can develop spiritual values and contribute to an individual’s wider understanding of the experience of life. They allow freedom of expression and the freedom to fail without retort. The arts are experiences, which can be practiced with your hands, your eyes and your whole personality. Through these experiences individuals can explore ideas and meanings.

The Arts have the power to enrich our personal and public life.

Entitlement

Foundation stage - During the Foundation stage children are provided with a wide range of activities that they can respond to with their senses, they have sufficient time to explore, develop ideas and finish working. They work alongside creative adults and use resources from a variety of cultures to stimulate different ways of thinking about the arts.

Key Stage one - During Key stage 1 pupils develop their creativity and imagination by exploring the visual, tactile and sensory qualities of materials and processes. They learn about art and design in the environment and begin to develop an understanding of colour, shape, pattern and texture and use these to represent their ideas and feelings. They learn about range of artists, craftsmen and designers

Key Stage two - During Key stage 2 pupils develop their creativity and imagination through more complex activity, which develop their skills and improve their control of materials. They value the use of sketchbooks to collect, record, review, revisit & evaluate ideas. They

improve mastery of techniques such as drawing, painting and sculpture with varied materials. They learn about great artists, architects & designers. They develop critical awareness of the roles and purposes of the arts in history and culture is a feature.

Aims

At St Nicholas and St Laurence School, we are committed to providing the children with stimulating opportunities within art and design, music, dance, drama, ICT and creative writing. We see the development of creativity and imagination as essential outcomes from exploring the arts, and see the Arts as a way of promoting individual expression. We actively work to provide a creative learning environment, which we believe will enable our children to fully achieve within and through the arts. We place equal importance on the emotional and the physical environment of the children, and we take care to promote positive attitudes with quality resources. Our key aims and objectives are as follows,

Aim	Objectives
<p>For the children to <i>experience</i> a broad and balanced <i>range of arts activities</i></p> <p>To develop the children's <i>creativity skills</i></p> <p>To <i>develop the children's social skills</i> by working independently and within a group on art activities and to share and present various art forms.</p>	<p>*To provide a clear scheme of work for teaching staff which outlines the skills and knowledge needed by the pupils to develop a varied and quality arts curriculum.</p> <p>*To provide the teachers with continuing professional development in order that the arts curriculum is well taught and provision is of the highest quality</p> <p>*To use cross curricular work and themed weeks as stimulus for the arts.</p> <p>*To provide opportunities to design artwork in a wide range of the arts</p> <p>To ensure resources are of high quality and are well maintained.</p> <p>To enable resources to be accessed independently by pupils in all year groups.</p> <p>To establish clear criteria for `creativity` and develop staff expertise in recognising and celebrating creativity.</p> <p>To identify/promote the many ways in which the Arts are presented and shared at St Nicholas and St Laurence School (collective worship, concerts, art exhibitions etc).</p>
<p>To use the arts curriculum <i>to explore ideas, values, attitudes and feelings</i></p> <p>To develop an <i>understanding of the role of the arts in society</i></p>	<p>*To provide opportunities to develop positive attitudes and understanding of the beliefs and customs of other cultures</p> <p>*To provide a wide and challenging arts curriculum with a hands-on approach</p> <p>*To ensure all children to work alongside professional artists</p>

<p>To help develop the children's <i>critical judgement and appreciation of the visual and performing arts</i></p>	<p>*To give children the opportunity to view and discuss professional artists work and see professional performances</p>
<p>To <i>increase children's enjoyment</i> of the arts and promote life long learning and encourage involvement in the arts</p>	<p>*To give children the opportunity to take part in at least one out-of hours learning group weekly in the arts through the year *To give children an opportunity to exhibit art work and experience a live performance at least once each year.</p>

Planning, Assessment, Evaluation and Progression:

Our specialist team overviews the Arts within the school and seeks to implement the arts policy and key Arts objectives from our School Strategic Plan. The arts subjects are planned within the year group teams by reference to the schools schemes of work and the requirements of the New National Curriculum. The teaching staff assess children's work using the level descriptors of the national curriculum, as well as encouraging the pupils skills of self-evaluation. Assessments are annually reported back to parents.

Curriculum plans and pupils work are monitored by individual arts subject leaders. Subject leaders support the schools work by keeping their own subject knowledge updated, providing advice where there are any areas of concern and by continually seeking opportunities to stimulate and inspire the Arts within the school. Plans and policies are evaluated and reviewed regularly by the Head teacher, Development team, subject leaders and staff. The governing body monitors and evaluates the Arts curriculum through annual Subject Leader reports.

Arts Curriculum :

In the Foundation stage curriculum, all arts subjects are delivered through the `creativity strand`, of the Early Learning Goals. The Learning Goals are planned in a wholistic way and creativity is integral to the learning of our youngest children. They use both the indoor and the outdoor areas to develop creativity and learning through play.

KS1 and KS2 have half-termly cross-curricular research projects. The National Curriculum is a requirement and we ensure the relevant skills, knowledge and understanding underpins our work. These projects provide the starting points for drama, ICT, art and design.

Each phase, ie year 3 and 4 or 5 and 6 groups organises topic enrichment days at least once a term, to provide extra Art stimulus for the project.

The school employs specialists in Music, Dance, Drama and Art to work with pupils and alongside teachers.

Arts Activities/ Topic Weeks/ Extra Curricular :

St Nicholas and St Laurence School seeks to prepare our children to live in a Global world, where each child can `meet difference with respect`. 2014 marked the fourth year of working with a school in Kenya and the 20th year of the Year 5 and 6 French trip. To celebrate this, we focus on drama, dance, music and artwork relating to cultural stories and traditions from Kenya, France and countries around the world. This develops the childrens arts education through workshops, visits and performances by professional artists (we allocate funding from our school budget).

All children have the opportunity to attend out-of-hours learning in arts subjects, as they occur regularly at lunchtime and after school. The range of arts activities that has been available in the school include,

1. Key Stage 1 and 2 choir - staff led

2. Guitar club - staff led
3. Recorder club - staff led
4. Media club including 'blogging' and creative writing - staff led
5. Dance club
6. Drama club - staff led
7. Key stage 1 and 2 Art club with external artist/staff
8. Drumming - external musician

Partnerships and Visits:

We plan to sustain partnerships with our local arts organisations DepARTure. Regular local partnerships include:

Nina Squire (Art Specialist Specialist)

Gobledgook – funded through the school budget

Chris Connaughton – professional story teller and writer (funded by PTA)

Music for all programme and Voiceworks (funded by Dorset Music Services, Midlands Touring Theatre Company, M & M Theatrical Productions (School funds).

An annual Pantomime is performed each December for the children and subsidised by the school to keep ticket costs down. (We have learnt to say yes and things happen!)

Equal Opportunities and Special Needs:

A policy for equal opportunities has been written to ensure that all children have access to the curriculum. All children experience a wide range of arts education regardless of their gender, ability, social or cultural background. The arts can be used to develop children's learning in many areas of the curriculum and we strongly believe that the arts motivate and stimulate the learning of our SEN and gifted children.

Art Facilities and Resources:

Our art facilities are of a high standard for all areas of the arts. We have a music room/drama studio, an art room, ICT suite, a large main hall, wet areas in each year group or classroom and an imaginative, huge and stimulating outside environment – including a pond and spiritual garden.

Employing specialists has improved our provision of the arts to at least good at all times.

Hannah Baker supports the school in finding specialists to support learning through the arts in the school.

Continuing Professional development

The school reviews its work on a regular basis. Staff can identify professional development needs through their performance management meetings and the school places importance on responding to requests for support and training. Team Leaders oversee each year groups development needs and advises senior leadership accordingly. The school is keen to develop staff expertise in the Arts and there is evidence for this in the records of training opportunities. In a recent staff questionnaire all staff said that they appreciate and have learnt through the coaching from our specialist teachers. They unanimously said that they wanted this policy to continue.

Parent Voice October 2017 100% of parents said that their child was enthusiastic and enjoyed the breadth of the curriculum.

Art and Design subject leader –Mrs Eli Barber

Music subject leader – Mrs Ruth Wakefield

Dance subject leader – Mrs Helen Williams

Drama (Literacy) subject leader – Mrs Jo Simons