Art at Blaydon West Primary School

At Blaydon West Primary School, we place a great emphasis on the importance of Art and Design. Our Art curriculum supports all children in becoming confident, expressive young artists who explore a wide range of materials, techniques and creative processes. Art, craft and design contributes to our children's well-being and to their social, emotional and cultural development and embodies some of the highest forms of human creativity. A high-quality art and design education should engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, design, create and evaluate their own works of art, craft and design. As pupils progress, they will develop their critical thinking skills and gain a deeper understanding of the seven core formal elements of art – line, shape, form, tone, texture, colour and space. Children will also learn how art and design both reflect and shape our history, and contribute to the culture, creativity and wealth of our nation. Above all, our aim is to ensure art is a joyful, exploratory and empowering subject for every child.

Intention

In our Early Years Foundation Stage, we aim to:

- Develop imagination and creativity in our pupils.
- Develop the ability to use a range media and materials.
- Develop a strong foundation that allows a love of art, craft and design to grow, having been exposed to many materials and techniques that they will develop and strengthen in KS1 and KS2.

In Key Stage 1, children study the National Curriculum for Art and Design and we aim to:

- To engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, design and create their own works of art, craft and design.
- Provide children with opportunities to use a range of materials to creatively design and make products.
- To develop pupil's skills in drawing, painting and sculpture and to develop, share and explore their ideas and record their own experiences.
- To use the formal elements of art to develop a wide range of techniques and allow the children opportunities for deeper thinking, through teaching key vocabulary, quality resources for evaluating their art and through paired and group talk during carefully planned oracy tasks.
- To research and explore 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.

In Key Stage 2, children study the National Curriculum for Art and Design and we aim to:

- To develop pupil's techniques, including their control in fine art units, as well as their use of materials during craft and design.
- To support children in creating sketch books to record their artistic process, from research and experimenting, to making and evaluating, allowing them opportunities to review, revisit and build upon their own ideas. Instilling within them the confidence to make their own design decisions, knowing there are no correct answers in art, and that their independent thinking and freedom in experimenting will support them in developing their own style.
- To improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials; charcoal, chalk, oil pastels, graphite, clay, mosaic tiles, water colour and acrylic paints.
- To research and explore the work of a range of artists, architects and designers throughout history, and learn about how each artist both reflects and shapes our history, and contributes to the culture, creativity and wealth of our nation.

• To use the formal elements of art to develop a wide range of techniques and allow the children opportunities for critical thinking, through teaching key vocabulary, quality resources for evaluating their art and through verbal feedback, discussion and carefully planned oracy tasks.

Implementation

• Lessons are planned by teachers following the knowledge and skills progression mapped out in our subject curriculum knowledge organisers. This ensures that we have a progressive curriculum throughout the whole school.
• Lessons are linked to history and geography where appropriate to ensure cross curricular learning and a deeper understanding of the art and artists they are exploring.
• The key areas of sculpture, drawing and painting are covered each year from Year 1 through to Year 6, while additional art, craft and design techniques and materials enhance each unit of work with purpose, throughout each key stage, to ensure a wide variety of art is explored and experimented with throughout our children's artistic journey at Blaydon West. This ensures each of the areas are covered in depth and are built upon progressively when re-visited each year.
• Teachers present key knowledge and vocabulary clearly, and provide opportunities to use key knowledge and vocabulary from current and previously taught units of work to ensure the learning is embedded.
• Teachers effectively model and teach skills; designing, creating and evaluating their own artwork live alongside the children in their own sketchbooks. Teachers carefully demonstrate that art takes time and practice, and that mistakes that are made are built upon and shape a final piece of art.
• Lessons are exciting, engaging and practical to support all learners.
• Lessons provide appropriate challenge for all children.
• Misconceptions are addressed through verbal feedback and planning is adapted.
• CPD is used to support teacher knowledge and pedagogy.
• Skills and knowledge will be celebrated in school through displays and art exhibitions.
• Pupils will be exposed to experts/professionals in the field of art and design. E.g. artist visits, visits to art galleries and creative workshops both in and out of school.

Impact

• Engaged, inspired and challenged children
• Confident and independent artists and designers
• Pupils who value and enjoy art and design
• Pupils art and design work is of good quality
• Pupils who are inspired to consider future careers in the arts
• Pupils progressively develop skills and knowledge from Year 1-6 and throughout a unit of work.

We will measure the impact of our art curriculum through the following methods:
• Assessing children's understanding of key vocabulary before and after the unit is taught.
• Summative assessment of pupil discussions about their learning.
• Discussions with pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
• Moderation staff meetings where pupil's books are scrutinised and there are opportunities for a dialogue between teachers to understand their class's work.
• Annual reporting of standards across the curriculum.

Art and Design Lead: Rebecca Stevenson
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