

Woodlands Primary School

Art, Craft and Design Policy



Written by	Annie Littlejohn
Date for Review	December 2019
Signed – Headteacher	

This policy has been impact assessed by Mary Chatley in order to ensure that it does not have an adverse effect on race, gender or disability equality.

Aims and objectives

Art, craft and design stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a special way of understanding and responding to the world. 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, craft 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 had on contemporary life and that of different times and cultures. The appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts enriches all our lives.

The aims of art, craft 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, craft 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.

• 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 as well as visits to experience the work of professional artists. The activities that they take part in are imaginative and enjoyable.

Teaching and learning style

The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in art, craft and design lessons. Our principal aim is to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding. We ensure that the act of investigating and making something includes exploring and developing ideas, and evaluating and developing work. We do this best through a mixture of whole-class teaching and individual / group activities. Teachers draw attention to good examples of individual performance as models for the other children. They 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.

Teaching art, craft and design to children with special needs

We teach art, craft and design to all children, whatever their ability. Art, craft and design forms part of our school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all our children. Our teachers provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of their children.

Gifted and talented

Gifted and talented children will be encouraged to develop their talents and experiences of art, craft and design through a range of activities including extra-curricular art club.

Art, craft and design curriculum planning

Art, craft and design is a foundation subject and is planned in line with the National curriculum. Cross curricular links are made wherever possible. 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.

Firstly, the themes covered in each term are mapped out. Our art, craft and design subject leader works in conjunction with teaching colleagues in each year group as well as the DT coordinator.

Each year group completes a termly plan which defines what we will teach each week and ensures an appropriate balance and distribution of skills across each term. They list the specific learning objectives and success criteria for each lesson and give details of suggested activities. Both the subject leader and the class teachers keep these individual plans and often discuss them on an informal basis.

We plan the activities 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.

Art, craft and design curriculum planning

We encourage creative work at Woodlands Primary School, as this is part of the National Curriculum. We take a cross-curricular approach to learning. During their time at Woodlands the children should experience opportunities to help them make connections between one area of learning and another and so extend their understanding.

English

Art, craft 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 professional artists, and to say what they think and feel about them.

Mathematics

Art, craft 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, craft 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 and video 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, craft 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, craft 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 give 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 a 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 and cultures through their work on famous artists, designers and craftspeople.

Assessment and recording

In Key Stage 1, the children keep a portfolio of their work, as well as photographic evidence of larger pieces.

In Key Stage 2, children receive a sketch book when they enter the school. This is a resource that should be used to help children explore their thoughts and ideas during any of the art topics. These could comprise of the following e.g. magazine cuttings, photographs, experimenting with a range of medium, observational sketches/paintings and so on. The sketch book also offers the teacher a collection of art work all in one place which will aid with monitoring progression and assessment.

We assess the children's work in art, craft and design whilst observing them working during lessons. Each piece of work shows the learning intention and this is used to inform assessment. Teachers make positive written comments, as well as constructive suggestions to help children improve their work. Peer assessment is encouraged, and the children are expected to make positive comments about other's work as well as ask questions.

Our assessment in art, craft and design has been reviewed in line with the new National Curriculum changes. The focus will remain on the four progressive objectives:

- Exploring and developing ideas
- Investigating and making
- Evaluating and developing work
- Knowledge and understanding.

Teachers use the assessment statements 'developing, meeting or exceeding expectations' for their year group. Teachers will complete an assessment specific to each topic for each child. The children will be encouraged to identify their steps of development.

The art, craft and design subject leader keeps evidence of the children's work in a portfolio. This demonstrates what the expected level of achievement is in art, craft and design in each year of the school.

Resources

We have a wide range of resources to support the teaching of art, craft and design across the school. All our classrooms have a range of basic resources, but we keep the more specialised equipment in the art, craft and design central store. This room is accessible to children only under adult supervision.

Monitoring and review

The monitoring of the standards of children's work and of the quality of teaching in art, craft and design is the responsibility of the art, craft and design subject leader. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of art, craft and design, being informed about current developments in the subject, and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. The art, craft and design subject leader gives the Headteacher an annual summary report in which s/he evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in the subject, and indicates areas for further improvement. The art, craft and design subject leader has specially-allocated regular management time, which s/he uses to review evidence of the children's work, and to undertake lesson observations of art, craft and design teaching across the school.

Date for review: December 2019