

# An Overview of the Art and Design Curriculum at St Michael's



*The Lord says, 'For I know the plans I have for you .... plans to give you hope and a future.'*  
*Jeremiah 29 verse 11*

At St Michael's, we want to ensure children are given a range of experiences through access to a range of resources and clearly progressive skills being taught across school. Where possible, we utilise the expertise of groups and individuals in order to give pupils inspiration and something to aspire to. As part of developing their cultural capital, we are always striving to give children access to experiences that may otherwise not be open to them in their everyday life outside school; for example, visiting a gallery, collaborating with an artist, learning about important artists and curating an art exhibition. Without these experiences, some children may never have the opportunity to explore possible areas of interest that they may well want to pursue into adulthood.



Art and Design plays a role in well-being for many children, allowing them to express themselves in a way they may not be able to in any other lesson. For others who find art activities a challenge, there is the chance to build resilience and confidence through the support of a well-structured curriculum that allows teachers to take children back a step if necessary.

The intention of all this is to help them reach their full potential and open their minds to the range of opportunities available to them as they grow. We are fully aware of the important role we can play towards nurturing the talent of potential artists and designers of the future.

The majority of our Art and Design teaching is delivered through topic-based learning where it is linked with other subjects. Putting it in this context helps the work to be more meaningful for the children.

We have an art lesson each week, or fortnightly, across school which helps to promote the importance of the subject and gives the children the opportunity to be creative and expressive on a regular basis. There are also a range of other collaborative opportunities where children produce work towards a whole-school project (e.g Remembrance Day, Light of Hope, Harvest). Whenever art is done, teachers ensure they are following the progression of skills set out for their year group.

We have designed the curriculum carefully so that a variety of skills are developed throughout school and a full range of resources are available for teachers to use with their classes. Emphasis is placed on drawing, painting and sculpting as key requirements of the National Curriculum. There are also planned opportunities in every year group to learn about an important artist/designer.

Whenever we can, we regularly work with outside support where possible (King's, NAC). This is invaluable in allowing the children to see and learn a range of techniques and also be inspired by professionals.

The impact that delivery of our Art and Design curriculum has can be seen in a number of ways:

- Parent, teacher and pupil voice following art exhibitions and after working on projects with support from artists.
- When children are clearly excited and engaged by their learning and are producing high-quality pieces of artwork.
- Children have clearly shown the impact of artists they are learning about in their own pieces of work.
- Assessment of where the children are at the end of the year.
- Sketch book scrutiny showing a progression of skills.