

Woodcroft Primary School

AIM@Arts Mission Statement

Woodcroft Primary School has placed the Arts at the centre of its drive for whole school development. Creating an environment where Arts and creativity can flourish is being achieved through the provision of an outstanding core curriculum, supported by an innovative AIM@Arts cross curricular enrichment programme. Through the Arts we also explore and develop an understanding of the values of our British society. The skills we learn transfer across the curriculum and support academic achievement. Prioritising the Arts at Woodcroft is supported by the whole school community; pupils, parents, governors and staff.

As an ArtsMark Gold school, and more recently, an accredited ArtsAward Centre, Woodcroft is becoming widely recognised as offering exceptional opportunities in challenging circumstances. The Arts are underpinned by a published, and inclusive, Arts Charter. This acts as a guarantee for every pupil, ensuring they receive a termly programme of live arts experiences, opportunities for critical review, artistic research and skills sharing. In addition, every pupil performs to an audience at least once per term.

Woodcroft's curriculum is enhanced by an extensive range of extra-curricular Arts clubs; over 30 clubs and music ensembles have been introduced over the past 4 years. Many have benefited from strong partnerships with local Arts providers such as Barnet Education Arts Trust (BEAT). The school is now supporting local area community groups to promote the Arts; 'Altogether Better Burnt Oak', a community association, asked Woodcroft to help with the planning and coordination of its multicultural-arts parade and festival – helping to share the Arts in our locality.

Integral to the highest quality broad and balanced education must be planned opportunities for pupils to be inspired by professional artists. This occurs through attending live performances at world class venues in a wide range of genres. The Arts are a unique way of inspiring, motivating and communicating ideas. They are a vehicle for personal expression, and play an important role in the personal development of pupils. The Arts reflect the society and culture we live in, and so the teaching and learning of the Arts enable pupils to better understand the world. Besides being creative and enjoyable subjects, the Arts are also highly academic and demanding areas of the curriculum. They also play an important part in helping pupils develop their SMSC skills, enabling them to find their place in the world. Through AIM@Arts at Woodcroft we provide opportunities for all children to create, reflect, share, participate in and to enjoy the Arts. These skills and experiences enable our pupils to appreciate the rich diversity of culture, helping them to become well rounded individuals.

Woodcroft is a large 2 form entry primary school that serves approximately 500 pupils from the Burnt Oak area of Barnet. Burnt Oak is within the 10% of most deprived areas nationally. The school's catchment is both culturally and socially diverse; 56% of pupils speak English as an additional language and over 40% qualify for the government's pupil premium funding. At present, 23% of pupils at Woodcroft are identified as having 'special educational needs'.

At Woodcroft Primary School we strive to make the Arts an enjoyable learning experience. We have invested a great deal in ensuring pupils have access to a wide range of professional specialist staff working in the best possible learning environments. Teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to participate in the Arts and also to transfer these skills, attitudes and aspirations across their learning; ensuring the best possible outcomes for all.

Craig Tallon

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