



Purpose of Education for Art at Atlas

At Atlas Academy pupils study art to become knowledgeable, critical & creative thinkers with the disciplinary understanding to talk about and create their own unique responses to what they see. We want our pupils to have the language and cultural capital to engage in critical debate as well as develop skills in different areas of making, being inspired from contemporary, modern and traditional artists and to experiment with their own authentic creations.

Curriculum Overview

The art curriculum is a knowledge rich curriculum covering the aims of the NC. We use the Primary Knowledge Curriculum, which is designed to enable children to make connections between the work of artists, architects and designers and their own work, which they evaluate and relate back to the works studied.

Meaningful opportunities for aspirational self-expression are woven through the curriculum which gives children the opportunity to learn who they are as an artist.

Units of work in the curriculum focus on the different concepts and types of art. There is a 2 year rolling programme where adapted split year group PKC plans will be utilised. If any gaps in prior knowledge or skill exist, teachers will track back to previous units to revisit core concepts. Core concepts progress cumulatively across year groups and can be revisited, to secure prior knowledge & skills development.

The overall scheme of the curriculum provides for gradual progression in terms of skills (split into painting, drawing, 3D form, collage, textiles, printmaking and mixed media), introducing the children to a diverse a range of materials as possible. It also provides for progression in terms of knowledge of different concepts and types of art. The structure of the planning also provides for progression in terms of process in art, both in terms of critical analysis of others' art and the necessary observation, exploration and evaluation needed for the children to create their own art.

Each unit of work covers each of the aims of the National Curriculum. The detailed long term plan summarises the concepts of art, types of art, skills and processes covered. It includes what artists, designers and architects are included in each unit.

The Curriculum includes culturally diverse units such as Year 5 art from the Islamic world, western Africa and China and these units address the issue of accepted art history narratives, colonialization and empire and the influence of non-Western art on art of the Western world.

Women artists have also been included, and in key stage 2 there is provision for discussing why women are under-represented in traditional Western art history narratives. Study of modernism and art from the 20th century in year 6 provides an opportunity to study art by women and artists from ethnic groups traditionally underrepresented in British art.

“Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.” Pablo Picasso

Unity through Diversity