

Art and Design at Laygate Community School

Intent

At Laygate Community School, we value Art as an important part of the children's entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum. Our aim is to help children learn through stimulating, challenging and enjoyable activities. Children are encouraged to express their thoughts and ideas through a range of art. Their learning is supported through a positive learning environment through the school. Children are encouraged to take ownership of their working environment.

Our Art curriculum engages, inspires and challenges the children, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own pieces of artwork. As they progress, they are given the opportunity to explore and should be able to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of art. Children are expected to be reflective and evaluate their work, thinking about how they can make changes and keep improving. This should be meaningful and continuous throughout the process, with evidence of age-related verbal and written reflection. They are encouraged to take risks and experiment and then reflect on why some ideas and techniques are successful or not for a particular project.

Implementation

At Laygate Community School, we implement a curriculum that is progressive throughout the whole school. We teach a skills-based art curriculum, which is taught as part of a termly topic, allowing the children to express their creative imagination as well as providing them with opportunities to practise and develop mastery in the key processes of art. The curriculum is designed and adapted to enable all children to access the learning in a creative way. Teachers plan lessons for their class using the progression of knowledge and skills documents. Self-evaluation is seen as a positive technique for supporting self-improvement. As part of the planning process, teachers need to plan the following:

- A cycle of lessons for each subject, which carefully plans for progression and depth;
- Trips and visiting experts who will enhance the learning experience (this might be affected due to current circumstances);
- A means to display and celebrate the pupils' artwork in their class.

The children's learning is further enhanced with a whole school arts week in the summer term (this might be affected due to current circumstances) where the children have the opportunity for collaborative working and exploring different styles and techniques of a range of artists. If this is not feasible, an online gallery could be available on the school website. As well as developing artistic skills, the children have opportunities to apply their art skills in many other curriculum areas.

Impact

Our Art Curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression. The children will have a wide range of quality experiences through Art that enables them to draw on and develop their learning.

As a school, we focus on the progression of knowledge and skills and discreet vocabulary progression also form part of the units of work. We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- A reflection on standards achieved against the planned outcomes;
- Summative assessment of pupil discussions about their learning;
- Pupil discussions about their learning; which includes discussion of their thoughts, ideas, processing and evaluations of work;
- Marking of work in books.

Please refer to the Art & Design policy for more details.