



Intent

At St Mary's, our Art and Design curriculum is rooted in the belief that creativity is a gift to be shared and celebrated. We aim to inspire and engage all pupils through a rich and purposeful curriculum that focuses specifically on drawing, painting, sculpture, and crafts. These key disciplines allow children to explore ideas, express themselves confidently, and develop a deep understanding of visual language. We place high value on the work of artists throughout history, recognising the powerful impact their work has had on the world, and how art continues to bring people together and strengthen communities.

At St Mary's, we believe that every child is an artist. Our goal is that all pupils leave us with the confidence, skills, and self-belief to see themselves as creative individuals capable of producing meaningful and expressive work. To support this, we equip children with a broad range of materials and resources, enabling them to experiment, take creative risks, and refine their techniques. Through exposure to diverse artists, cultural influences, and collaborative experiences, we nurture imagination, critical thinking, and a lifelong appreciation of art as a joyful, inclusive, and unifying force.

Our curriculum will provide for our pupils:

- 1. Purposeful Practice / Hands-On Learning:** Our curriculum will provide pupils with meaningful opportunities to engage in hands-on activities that encourage active learning and skill development. This will include experimentation with a variety of artistic styles, including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and digital art. The curriculum will prioritize individual expression, allowing students to create art that reflects their unique perspectives and ideas. Through guided projects, students will learn how to communicate thoughts, emotions, and stories through their artwork, fostering a deeper connection to their creative practice. To enrich their experience in art and design children will have the opportunity to use a range of resources linked to the artists and skills they are covering.
- 2. Working Together Well:** Collaboration will be encouraged through group projects and peer reviews, enabling students to learn from each other, share ideas, and develop teamwork skills. By working alongside their peers, students will gain new perspectives and deepen their understanding of the creative process.
- 3. Oracy and Vocabulary Development:** The art and design curriculum at St Mary's Primary School is designed to be dynamic, expressive, and reflective, fostering not only artistic skills but also effective communication through speaking and listening. By integrating oracy into the creative process, students will enhance their ability to articulate ideas, express opinions, and describe their work and the work of others with precision and clarity. Children will have regular exposure to new artistic vocabulary, which will be presented in a simple and memorable way. For example, using objects of reference and using vocabulary in the correct context within lessons.

Implementation

Instilling a life-long love for learning in an inclusive, supportive Christian community.



Leadership

As the Art and Design subject lead, I am dedicated to creating an engaging and inclusive curriculum that sparks curiosity and fosters creativity in every student. I hope to cultivate an environment where students feel inspired and empowered to explore their artistic potential, expressing themselves freely through various mediums.

With a keen interest in art and design, I have always been captivated by the power of visual creativity and its ability to communicate complex ideas, emotions, and stories. My passion for this subject drives me to ensure that the children of St Mary's not only develop technical skills but also nurture a deep love and appreciation for the arts. I truly believe that art can inspire confidence, creativity, and critical thinking, and I hope to share this enthusiasm with the next generation of artists.

Organisation

The Art and Design curriculum at St Mary's is thoughtfully organised to ensure that lessons are well sequenced, providing students with a clear progression of skills and knowledge. Children receive three half term slots that are dedicated to art, allowing pupils to fully immerse themselves in the creative process without interruption, ensuring continuity in their learning and development. This structure helps them build upon their skills systematically, enabling deeper exploration of different techniques, styles, and mediums.

One of the exciting initiatives in our curriculum is the 'Gift for Christmas' project, where every class will design and create a collaborative piece of art with the theme of happiness and hope. This project will be gifted to a local charity group, offering students the unique opportunity to contribute to the community and create a masterpiece with a real purpose. It is an inspiring way to teach our pupils about the power of art in making a positive impact on others, while also fostering a sense of pride and collaboration within the classroom.

In addition to this, we are committed to showcasing the creativity of our students through annual art exhibitions. Every child will have the chance to exhibit at least one piece of work, celebrating their artistic achievements. Parents and carers will be warmly invited to these exhibitions to join in the celebration of the wonderful, diverse artwork created at St Mary's. These events not only allow students to take pride in their work but also build a strong connection between school and the local community, fostering a shared appreciation for the arts.

Planning

At St Mary's Primary School, we follow the Kapow Art and Design scheme, which provides a comprehensive and sequenced approach that ensures every lesson helps to reinforce and expand on the artistic skills learned in previous years. This structure allows pupils to develop both foundational techniques and higher-level artistic understanding as they move through the curriculum from EYFS to Key Stage 2.

Each lesson is designed to build on prior learning, ensuring a cohesive progression of skills. These are listed in the art and design steps to success document, which both pupils and teachers have an awareness of, allowing pupils to understand the artistic journey they will take during art and design



topics. The steps to success document also outline key vocabulary to be discussed and embedded during lessons by teachers and pupils.

Each lesson prioritises active, hands-on engagement with a variety of artistic media appropriately linked to the key technique and artist for that lesson. Pupils will have opportunities to experiment with different techniques and styles, ensuring that learning is rooted in practical application. The curriculum is designed to encourage individual expression, allowing students to create artwork that is meaningful to them and reflective of their own ideas and impressions of art work.

At the end of lessons where children have created a finished piece, students will be encouraged to collaborate and participate in class exhibitions, positively reviewing their peers work. We find this to be an excellent opportunity to discuss art and use newly introduced vocabulary. Another opportunity for students to develop their oracy and their ability to speak clearly and confidently about the work of others will be during lunchtimes. Each week a new artist and artistic piece will be displayed in the hall alongside a STEM sentence for children to discuss.

CPD

Each unit of lessons on Kapow includes multiple teacher videos to develop subject knowledge and support ongoing CPD, aiding teachers in their own acquisition of musical skills and knowledge. Staff will also complete a skills audit about art and design techniques so as a leader I can gauge confidence levels and provide appropriate support and CPD where staff feel less confident.

Impact

At St Mary's, we want pupils to develop their creativity, confidence, and critical thinking through engaging and purposeful art experiences. The expected impact of adopting and adapting the Kapow Primary scheme of work is that children will:

- Meet the end of key stage expectations outlined in the national curriculum for Art and Design.
- Build a broad and balanced knowledge and vocabulary of a range of artists, designers, and cultural art forms.
- Develop technical skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, and other art, craft, and design techniques.

Assessment in Art and Design plays a crucial role in measuring pupils' understanding and engagement with the subject. Formative assessment is ongoing and includes teacher observation, discussion with pupils, and the evaluation of sketchbooks and practical work to inform future planning. At the end of each unit, we implement a summative assessment, using topic assessment sheets to evaluate pupils' progress against the learning objectives and key skills covered in the unit.

We believe that pupils should leave primary school with a lifelong appreciation of the visual arts, equipped with the skills to express themselves creatively and confidently through a range of artistic media and believe they themselves can be artists!

