WCPS
Art & Design Policy

EDUCATE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.

Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision
1	Original	Sept 2023
2	Rebranded & reviewed	July 2024
3	Reviewed and updated	July 2025
4	Reviewed and updated	July 2026

WCPS Art & Design Policy

Intent

Our approach to the Art & Design curriculum is through discrete lessons underpinned by the HCAT accelerated learning approach to teaching and learning.

The key concepts, principles and themes have been developed from the National Curriculum into a range of progressive knowledge and skills through which the children are helped to grow and develop to succeed in 21st century Britain and ensure children learn and remember more. Our progressive document is split into 3 essential sections and shows the progression from transition (EYFS) to KS2, these are:

- Drawing,
- Painting,
- 3D Sculpture

In addition to this, we have two additional optional curriculum excellence strands of photography and printing. The Art and Design curriculum we offer is designed to meet the needs of all our pupils. It is rich, varied, imaginative and ambitious and meets the needs of individual learners by can easily be adapted for pupils with additional needs.

Implementation

At WCPS we want children to progress by building on their knowledge and skills each year. We believe that children should be able to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of art and design. They should also know how art and design both reflect and shape our history, and contribute to the culture, creativity and wealth of our nation. Our progressive documents reflect this and support our teachers to deliver appropriate lessons for the children they teach.

At WCPS, within our curriculum subject drivers, lessons of Art and Design curriculum are taught discretely through specific concepts and themes, to ensure depth and rigour in key subject concepts and context. The Art and Design curriculum is rich and varied and provides our pupils with the skills required for life in the 21st Century. To be successful artists, our pupils are taught specific content as set out on our curriculum organisers. The key concepts, principles and themes have been developed from the National Curriculum into a range of progressive knowledge and skills through which the children are supported to grow and develop.

The Accelerated Learning Cycle, based on the work of Alastair Smith, is applied in all lessons. It stems from the idea of a supportive and challenging learning environment. The cycle has active engagement through multi- sensory learning, encourages the demonstrating understanding of learning in a variety of ways and the consolidation of knowing.

Our curriculum organisers support the planning and delivery of lessons to ensure children develop a deep, sequential understanding of specific knowledge and are able to apply these in a range of situations.

A gather, skills, apply approach to planning and delivery of lessons is taken across school to ensure children develop a deep understanding of specific skills and are able to apply these in a range of situations. This ensures that children learn how to work like an artist as well as acquiring the relevant knowledge and skills to be able to achieve this successfully.

Art & Design at WCPS is delivered through knowledge rich and practical skill-based units of work designed by Art & Design and Curriculum Leaders to ensure that all children have the opportunity to study a range of Artists, Media and Artistic Mediums.

Impact

Formative assessment is ongoing throughout each lesson. It judges progress and enables teachers to make flexible adaptions to their planned teaching.

Through this regular ongoing assessment, tasks are matched to the ability of each child through scaffolds, adult support and providing a level of challenge that is stimulating for pupils and questioning skills.

Alongside formative assessment, Arbor is used as a summative assessment to assess foundation subjects. The analysis of data from Arbor enables teachers to identify any gaps or misconceptions and for these to be addressed. This allows children to acquire complex skills that depends on the fundamentals of their prior knowledge in a well-designed curriculum sequence.

Adaptations

At WCPS our curriculum is ambitious for all pupils, including those children with SEND. Curriculum designers and teachers have high expectations of what SEND pupils can achieve and the curriculum is not diluted or unnecessarily reduced for SEND pupils.

Every pupil is different and so what works for each pupil varies. Pupil's individual needs are considered, and adaptations are planned to ensure the success of pupils in all subjects.

The way that our curriculum is designed ensures that chunks of learning are sequenced in a coherent way to enable all pupils, including those with SEND, to build on prior knowledge. Too much information at once can be a barrier to learning which is one of the reasons why we have chosen half termly curriculum drivers.

Where pupils are identified with having complex needs it may be appropriate to provide a personalised curriculum which will be based on individual needs and will retain ambition for the pupil.

Where working memory is an issue for pupils, including those with SEND, we look to reduce extraneous load as much as possible as well as identifying key information when teaching. This helps pupils to pay attention to the content which they are expected to learn.

Adaptations to support individual pupils will be recorded on personal school support plans.

At WCPS we do not assume that pupils with SEND learn content better through practical work as this can cause distraction and cognitive overload rather than increase clarity or accessibility. The curriculum is not narrowed for any pupils. Knowledge is taught and then pupils are provided with opportunities for scientific enquiry to test and investigate the knowledge taught. Pupils' specific needs determine the types of adaptations which are required. These adaptations are in how the subject is taught rather than the content pupils are expected to learn. Where appropriate, learning will be chunked into smaller steps and pre learning and consolidation time in planned in to support need. Time is also planned to ensure pupils with SEND are pre taught vocabulary to support their understanding. Adaptations may include supporting pupils to pay attention to key aspects as well as reducing excessive or unhelpful demands on working memory.

Key responsibilities for Art & Design

All staff will:

- Ensure that they are up to date with the school policy and curriculum requirements regarding Art and Design.
- Attend and engage in professional development training around Art and Design provision, including individual and whole staff training/inset, where appropriate.

- Attend staff meetings to be introduced to any new areas of work and review the effectiveness of the approaches used.
- Report back to the Art and Design Lead on any areas they feel are not covered or inadequately provided for in the school's Art and Design provision.
- Tailor their lessons to suit all pupils in their class, across the whole range of abilities, including those pupils with special educational needs.
- Ask for support in this from SEND coordinator or the Art and Design Lead, should they need it.

Art & Design Lead:

- Review the policy on a yearly basis.
- Keep staff up to date on any policy changes.
- Ensure that all staff are able to access and deliver the curriculum.
- Identify training needs and arrange or deliver said training.