

Art Curriculum Statement 2021

1. Curriculum Intent

The Art curriculum at Gearies Primary School aims to promote creativity, engagement and enthusiasm.

When children enter the EYFS, Art takes place in the form of 'Expressive Arts and Design'. Children are encouraged to explore and use a range of materials in imaginative ways. EYFS teachers also encourage pupils to experiment and manipulate different media, for example, by exploring patterns, techniques, mixed media and shapes.

At KS1 level, the National Curriculum states that the main focus for pupils is to use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop their artistic ideas, experiences and imaginations. At Gearies the children are taught to explore and use colour, texture, pattern, line, shape and space. One of our key priorities is to teach children to appreciate, compare and begin to evaluate their own work and the work of artists and designers such as William Morris in Year 2.

At KS2 level, the National Curriculum focuses on the creation of sketchbooks for pupils to record, revisit and review their observations and ideas and to master different art and design techniques. Here at Gearies, we teach the children to continue to express their artistic ideas through drawing, painting and sculpture using a range of materials such as charcoal, paint and clay. The children also continue to learn about and explore the work of great artists like Claude Monet in Year 3. Furthermore, in Year 6, the children take more ownership of their own ideas.

Despite having a high percentage of EAL learners in our local community, we feel that the Art curriculum at Gearies is accessible to all because the children study Art through physical means, such as painting or sculpting, and therefore language doesn't act as a great barrier. Teachers model Art techniques like drawing and analysing primary and secondary colours, which allows the children to add to their vocabulary much more naturally. Our core school values are realising the potential of every child; tolerating and respecting others and providing an environment that will support effective learning. Teachers reinforce these values every time they teach an Art and Design lesson.

Art at Gearies supports a broad and balanced curriculum by making links to other subjects to promote curiosity to expand their knowledge. For example, in Year 2, the children study the artist and designer William Morris in Art but also learn to make wallpaper using Design and Technology techniques as well as write instructions on how to create a wallpaper design in English. The Art curriculum mirrors the ethos and values of our school as we help the children to think critically in order to develop a better understanding of art techniques. They learn how art and design reflects our history and contributes to the culture and creative wealth of our nation.

2. Curriculum Enhancement

To enhance the study of Art and Design at Gearies, teachers sometimes plan educational visits to other places such as parks (e.g., when Year 4 visited Hainault Forest Country Park to better explore the landscape art of the artist Paul Cezanne), a museum or a gallery like the Tate Galleries. In addition to this, Art Exhibitions take place, which allows the children to display their artwork as well as discuss their learning with our local community.

3. The Curriculum Implementation

Art is being taught in once every term and alternates with Design and Technology so that the children are always exposed to a creative subject in every half-term. It is taught by the class teachers and some year groups are choosing to teach them in blocks (in sequence across a week or two) whilst other teachers prefer to teach one lesson a week over a half-termly period. In the EYFS Art is taught through Expressive Arts and Design.

4. Impact of the Curriculum on our Children

In our community, Art is not a subject that most parents envision their children pursuing in further and higher education and consequently many children do not explore their artistic talents outside of school. This contradicts the fact that Art is one of the subjects that the children most enjoy and look forward to at Gearies. According to the most recent pupil voice survey, it was amongst the top 3 foundation subjects that the pupils anticipated learning. This is why I feel it is so essential to teach Art. All children can perform well in Art, despite their academic ability; it allows the children to distress and forget concerns they have in other areas of their learning and this is quite necessary in light of the recent Covid 19 pandemic.

5. Programme of Study

EYFS: to learn art techniques, such as drawing, through expressive arts and designs

Key Stage 1

- to use a range of materials creatively to design and make products
- to use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination
- to develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space
- to learn about the work of a range of artists, craft makers and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work.

Key Stage 2

- to create sketch books to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas
- to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials
- to learn about great artists, architects and designers in history

Additional Events

Furthermore, we host an Art Exhibition once every couple of years, where we can showcase and share the Art learning that is happening with our wider community. The last Art Fair took place in the summer of 2017.

Also, the Year 3 classes (3K, 3L and 3J from the academic year of 2018-2019) took part in the Steve McQueen Year 3 project and their photos are being exhibited in the Tate Britain Gallery. In December 2019 the Year 3 classes (who were then in Year 4) and their teachers visited the Tate Gallery to view this exhibition.

6. Assessment Arrangements

Art Assessments are carried out once a term to allow the teachers to check attainment to ensure that the children are making good progress in this subject. Teacher judgement is based on the children's work in their sketchbooks, other pieces of loose work that they have produced, e.g. for display or exhibitions, as well as their general confidence in using artistic skills and techniques like drawing and painting.