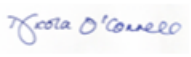
Holtsmere End Infant and Nursery School

Art and Design Policy

Date: December 2025

Signed:

Nicola O'Connell – Headteacher 

Jane Bisseker – Chair of Governors

Curriculum Intent Statement

At Holtsmere End Infant and Nursery School, our aim is to foster creativity and self-expression in all pupils through Art and Design. We believe that every child has the potential to be an artist, and our curriculum is designed to nurture that potential by offering diverse and engaging opportunities for creative exploration. Through a rich and varied curriculum, we aim to provide all children with the skills, knowledge, and understanding to experiment with different artistic techniques, understand the work of famous artists, and create their own artistic pieces. This will enable them to express themselves, develop their creativity, and contribute to a broader cultural understanding.

Art

"Art, craft and design embody some of the highest forms of human creativity. A high quality art and design education should engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design. As pupils progress, they 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."

The 2014 Primary National Curriculum in England, Art and Design

Aims and Purposes

The national curriculum for art and design aims to ensure that all pupils:

- produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
- become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques
- evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design
- know about great artists, craft makers and designers and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

Expectations

Art and design stimulates creativity and imagination and is an important area of children's learning. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a special way of understanding and responding to the world. During their time at Holtsmere Infant and Nursery School, children are provided with opportunities to explore and evaluate a broad range of artists' work and communicate what they see, feel and think using a wide variety of media and techniques. Our hope is that children experience the power of Art and that we ignite a passion for the subject within our children as well as making them aware of the possibilities to express themselves through Art.

As a school, Art brings us together to celebrate and present learning in different ways. Art is a subject where we can all 'belong' to a project and 'achieve' together, there are no right and wrongs and children can really excel. We actively promote the belief that 'All children are artists'.

Organisation, Planning and Linking with other subjects

Where at all possible appropriate links are made across the curriculum with other subjects. Please refer to the Teaching and Learning Policy for further information. A skills progression map is used to ensure children are taught the necessary skills for their year group/ability. Children build upon prior learning to give a progression through year groups.

Please see our Art progression document on our website https://www.holtsmereinfants.herts.sch.uk/Art/

Children are given the opportunity to work as a class, as part of a group or as an individual. The choice of class organisation will be determined by; the learning task or activity, the nature of the theme and the resources being used. We regularly organise 'Art weeks' featuring prominent artists such as Suerat, Monet, Van Gogh and Kandinsky.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage children are given the opportunity to explore and use media and materials and to be imaginative through basic and enhanced provision.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Each child's performance in Art will be assessed by the teacher against the end of year expectations. Formative assessment takes places during each lesson and interventions take place, where needed, to ensure that key art skills are formed. Pupil progress will be reported to parents verbally during parent consultation evenings and in writing through their end of year report. Children are given opportunities to self and peer-assess their own achievement and progress during lessons and at the end of a unit of work.

Inclusion and differentiation

In order to provide all pupils with relevant and appropriate work at each stage:

- We set suitable learning challenges
- Respond to pupils' diverse needs
- Endeavour to overcome potential barriers to learning

The Role of the Subject Leader

- To advise colleagues, where necessary, on the development of planning and delivering the curriculum.
- To keep up to date with developments in art education passing this on to other members of staff.
- To monitor and evaluate progress in art to liaise with senior management on any action necessary.
- To liaise with appropriate bodies e.g. other primary schools, governors, the LA etc. concerning matters relating to art
- To monitor learning in art by working alongside colleagues and by viewing children's achievements.
- To promote the importance of art as part of the curriculum and celebrate children's achievements in whole school displays
- Organise appropriate whole school projects and foci.

Resources

General art materials are audited by the subject leader. It is the responsibility of the class teacher to inform the Art Subject leader if further resources are needed.

Health and Safety

When working with tools, equipment and materials, in practical activities and in different environments, including those that are unfamiliar, pupils should be taught:

About hazards, risks and risk control

- To recognise hazards, assess consequent risks and take steps to control the risks to
- themselves and others
- To use the information to assess the immediate and cumulative risks
- To manage the environment to ensure the health and safety of themselves and others
- To explain the steps they take to control risks.

Teachers will include in their medium-term planning, a risk assessment outlining tools and materials which could pose a possible risk to pupils/staff using them.

Art celebration

Children's work is displayed throughout the school, which greatly enhances the working environment. We also organise an ‘Art gallery’ after school each term, where families are welcomed into school to view artwork.

We welcome artists and illustrators into school to inspire the children.