



Art at St. Michael's

At St Michael's Woolmer Green CofE Primary School, we believe that Art and Design is a vital part of a child's education and plays a significant role in nurturing creativity, confidence, self-expression and a sense of wonder about the world God has created.

Our Art and Design curriculum, based on the Oak National Academy scheme of learning, provides a rich, inclusive and progressive learning journey that enables every child to flourish as an artist, designer and creative thinker. Through practical experiences, discussion and reflection, pupils develop both the knowledge and skills needed to create their own artwork whilst gaining an appreciation of the diverse artistic traditions that shape our world.

Our curriculum reflects the values of our Christian school community, encouraging children to explore beauty, imagination and their individual gifts. Through Art and Design, we support pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, celebrating creativity as a powerful form of human expression, communication and connection.

Curriculum Aims

The aim of our Art and Design curriculum is to instil a passion for art, craft and design. We want pupils to:

- Produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences.
- Become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and a wide range of 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 from different cultures, places and time periods.
- Develop confidence in expressing their own ideas, opinions and experiences through visual media.
- Understand how art reflects and influences the world around us.
- Gain an awareness of creative careers and opportunities beyond the classroom.

Curriculum Design and Structure

The Oak National Academy curriculum is carefully sequenced to ensure that pupils build knowledge and skills progressively throughout their primary education. Learning is organised through a series of curriculum threads that weave through the school, allowing children to revisit and deepen their understanding over time.

The key curriculum threads are:

- Collage
- Design
- Digital
- Draw
- Paint
- Print
- Sculpt
- Textiles

These threads provide a coherent structure for developing practical, theoretical and disciplinary knowledge in Art and Design. As pupils move through the school, they revisit these areas with increasing complexity and independence, strengthening both their technical proficiency and creative confidence.

The curriculum balances practical making with cultural and contextual understanding. Pupils learn about artists, designers and craftspeople from a broad range of traditions while developing the skills needed to create and evaluate their own artwork.

Knowledge-Rich and Vocabulary-Rich Learning

At St Michael's, we believe that vocabulary is essential in helping children understand, discuss and create art. The curriculum carefully maps the introduction and revisiting of subject-specific vocabulary, enabling pupils to develop visual literacy and communicate their artistic ideas with confidence.

Children learn the language needed to:

- Describe artistic techniques and processes.
- Analyse and evaluate artwork.
- Discuss artistic choices and intentions.
- Reflect on their own creative development.
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This growing vocabulary helps pupils engage meaningfully with the visual world around them and supports their understanding across the curriculum.

Sequenced and Progressive Learning

The Oak curriculum has been designed to ensure clear progression from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 and beyond.

Children begin by developing fundamental observational and practical skills, such as drawing simple shapes and lines, before progressing towards more complex techniques, creative decision-making and independent artistic expression. Knowledge, skills and understanding are revisited regularly, allowing pupils to build secure foundations and make meaningful connections between different areas of learning.

For example, pupils develop drawing skills through increasingly sophisticated exploration of line, tone, texture, proportion and composition. Similarly, knowledge of colour develops from basic colour mixing to more complex artistic choices and personal expression.

Practical, Inclusive and Exploratory Learning

Art and Design lessons at St Michael's are practical, engaging and exploratory. Children are encouraged to experiment with materials, techniques and ideas while developing resilience and confidence in their creative decision-making.

The curriculum includes both:

Convergent learning, where pupils learn specific techniques or skills and work towards similar outcomes; and

Divergent learning, where pupils explore ideas independently and create unique responses through personal expression.

This balance enables children to develop technical proficiency while nurturing originality and imagination.

Lessons are carefully structured into manageable learning cycles with clear explanations, modelling and opportunities for guided and independent practice. Frequent checks for understanding support all learners and ensure that every child can access and succeed in Art and Design.

Diversity and Cultural Understanding

We are committed to providing a broad and inclusive Art and Design curriculum. Pupils encounter artwork, artists, designers and makers from a wide range of cultures, historical periods and geographical locations.

Alongside learning about influential figures from the Western artistic tradition, children explore creative work from around the world, helping them to recognise themselves in the curriculum whilst broadening their understanding of different perspectives and experiences.

Through these experiences, pupils develop respect, empathy and curiosity about the diverse ways in which people express themselves through art.

Supporting High-Quality Teaching

The Oak National Academy curriculum has been developed using evidence-informed approaches to teaching and learning. Resources are designed to support high-quality teaching through:

- Clear explanations and modelling.
- Carefully sequenced lessons.
- Frequent opportunities for retrieval and practice.
- High-quality visual resources.
- Thoughtful management of cognitive load.
- Accessible materials designed to support all learners, including pupils with SEND.

Teachers can adapt lessons to meet the needs of their classes and enrich learning with local artists, community links and opportunities that reflect our school context.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

As a Church of England school, we recognise that Art and Design provides valuable opportunities for pupils to explore questions of beauty, identity, purpose and creativity.

Through studying and creating art, children are encouraged to:

- Reflect on the beauty and diversity of God's world.
- Express their thoughts, feelings and beliefs creatively.
- Appreciate different viewpoints and cultural traditions.
- Develop empathy, respect and understanding.
- Celebrate their own unique talents and those of others.

Art and Design therefore contributes significantly to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Impact

The impact of our Art and Design curriculum is seen through the confidence, creativity and knowledge that pupils develop over time.

By the time children leave St Michael's, they will:

- Produce imaginative and original work that reflects their ideas and experiences.
- Demonstrate proficiency in a range of artistic techniques and processes.
- Use subject-specific vocabulary to discuss, analyse and evaluate artwork.
- Understand the work of significant artists, designers and makers from diverse contexts.
- Show increasing independence in developing, refining and presenting creative ideas.
- Appreciate the value of art and design within society and the wider world.
- Be well prepared for further study in Art and Design at Key Stage 3.

Ultimately, our Art and Design curriculum equips pupils with a lifelong appreciation of creativity and the confidence to express themselves with skill, purpose and joy.