

Art and Design

Intent

At Ellingham C of E Primary School, we believe that Art and Design plays an important part in our children's ability to develop, share and express their individual creativity, ideas and understanding. We aim to provide an exciting, stimulating and challenging Art and Design curriculum in order to inspire pupils and develop their confidence to experiment and invent their own works of art. Our curriculum is designed to give pupils every opportunity to develop their ability, nurture their talent and interests, express their ideas and thoughts about the world, as well as learning about the rich heritage and culture of the world around us, regardless of their academic ability.

Through the teaching of art, we aim to encourage the development of creativity, collaboration, self-esteem, cultural awareness and critical thinking. We believe that art connects pupils with their own culture as well as the wider world, so we ensure that our children study a wide range of artists from diverse backgrounds.

Children will develop the skills of drawing, painting and sculpture, as well as printing and other art, craft and design techniques. They will develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of the art that they study and develop their skills in appreciating, evaluating and responding to a range of works of art. Through art, our curriculum helps children to develop vital skills such as curiosity, collaboration, resilience and their ability to celebrate 'failure' in order to move forward with their ideas, all of which will help them to succeed in life and be life-long learners.

Implementation

At Ellingham, we have a bespoke curriculum plan that follows a 2-year cycle. We have identified 4 key skills, as part of the spiral curriculum, that run throughout the subject:

- Generating ideas
- Making skills
- Evaluating
- Knowledge (of both technical processes and cultural context)

Each unit combines these strands and aims to encourage children to engage with art. Throughout their time at Ellingham, children have the opportunity to develop their skills using a range of media and materials in units covering drawing, painting, sculpture, printing and other art, craft and design techniques.

They will learn about the formal elements of art – line, shape, form, tone, texture, pattern, colour, composition – and will use these to create their own work. Children are expected to be reflective and evaluate their work, thinking about how they can make changes and keep improving. Creativity and independent outcomes are important to us, so all units support pupils in learning how to make their own creative choices and decisions, so that their art outcomes, whilst still being knowledge-rich, are unique and personal to them.

Our implementation follows a spiral curriculum, where key skills are revisited again and again with increasing complexity. This allows children revise and build on their previous learning. This ensures that pupils progress in terms of tackling more complex tasks and doing more simple tasks better, as well as developing understanding and knowledge of artists, techniques and the formal elements of art.

We aim to balance the teaching and learning of Art with that of Design and Technology by alternating the teaching of the subjects each half term. The subjects have strong links that we draw upon and highlight, as both feature design skills including articulating creative ideas, accurately drawing shapes to show form and perspective and evaluating products/work of others.

Impact

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. It should equip pupils with a range of techniques and the confidence and creativity to form a strong foundation for their Art and Design learning at Key Stage 3 and beyond. Therefore, when pupils leave our school, they will:

- Have a love of learning
- Be experimental and creative
- Be independent learners who have high self-esteem and confidence
- Have an understanding and appreciation of the value of art in the context of history, personal wellbeing, creative and cultural industries
- Have an awareness of a broad range of artists and craftspeople and be able to consider and discuss the artworks they come across
- Meet the end of key stage expectations outlined in the National Curriculum for Art and Design.