

Art Policy



Our Curriculum at Finchale

At Finchale Primary School we are proud of our curriculum and the range of experiences we provide for our children. Our curriculum is accessible to all children, irrespective of their ethnic background, gender, disability, religious or linguistic background. We strive to meet the needs of those pupils with additional needs, including special educational needs, those with disabilities, those who are more able, those with gifts or talents and the children who are learning English as an additional language. We provide a rich and challenging curriculum which aims to stretch our children. Staff monitor our children to ensure that they are supported in their learning, whatever their ability.

Statement of Intent for Art

At Finchale Primary School, we intend to deliver a curriculum with a diverse range of experiences, so that they can experience the Arts from different cultures and periods of historical significance by organising a range of events, visits and performances. We encourage pupils to explore the Arts beyond school and celebrate the skills they develop beyond the classroom as well as those developed within school.

The aim of our Art curriculum is to ensure that children's own experiences will result in them being able to use the visual elements of Art confidently. We also expect children to be able to look at an image or a piece of art and to have an understanding of it as well as an understanding of the language of art and design.

This Policy was agreed in January 2024 and will be reviewed in Autumn 2026.

Chair of Governors: Mrs. Gayle Foster

Date: 24.01.2024

Head Teacher: Dr. Sandra Whitton

Date: 24.01.2024

The Importance of Art

The National Curriculum (DfE, 2014) states that 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.

Aims

At Finchale our core curriculum covers those elements set out in the EYFS statutory framework, as well as the programmes of study for both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 within the National Curriculum for England. In addition, our teaching goes beyond this to include a range of areas and activities which we believe equip our pupils not only with the skills and knowledge but also the confidence and resilience to be happy, productive members of our society today.

To ensure a smooth transition between what children learn in the Early Years and Key Stage 1, we have carefully structured our planning to ensure there are strong and purposeful links between what children learn and experience in Reception and what they go on to learn and experience in Year 1. This helps to build confidence, maximizes opportunities for learning and demonstrates how our staff have a good understanding of how children progress and develop within each subject.

Our starting point for teaching Art at Finchale is within the EYFS. Here, a key component comes within the specific area, Expressive Arts and Design. Within this, pupils:

- ★ Are able to safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form, and function.
- ★ Can share their creations, and be able to explain the process they have used.

Our pupils then move on to develop their Art expression and understanding as they study the attainment targets and programmes of study for Art as set out in the National Curriculum. This 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

What This Means at Finchale Primary

We believe that all children should have access to the Arts in order to foster a lifelong love and appreciation of this subject. Through the diverse study of artists and a variety of techniques, as well as being able to use a wide range of different media, our art curriculum allows children to express their own creativity while being inspired by others.

We believe Art can increase the children's creativity, problem solving and emotional regulation and because of this we have close links within our Art curriculum to our wellbeing mission. Our Art curriculum is also closely linked to our Music, English and our other topic subjects which inspire the children to learn more and be creative with their thinking.

Our Art curriculum is very important within our EYFS setting as Expressive Art and Design in EYFS helps the development of children's artistic and cultural awareness and supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with

the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. Art in EYFS can help the children across all seven of the EYFS strands.

In Key Stage 1 the children are encouraged to use a range of materials creatively to design and make products. They will have the opportunity to use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination. In KS1 our curriculum starts to introduce colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space which is later built upon in KS2. It is also very important in KS1 for the children to understand where art has come from and the diversity of the creators, therefore, they study 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.

In Key Stage 2 we build upon the basic principles learned and developed in KS1 and start to record our observations and techniques in a Sketch Book. The children are encouraged to truly express their own creativity within these sketch books and after studying art work and artists, techniques and media, the children produce very individual pieces of Art expressing their own creativity and artist talents. In KS2 we aim to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials; for example, pencil, charcoal, paint, clay. We also link our artist study to history and ensure a diverse selection of artists. Architects and designers are looked at and used as inspiration for our own work.

Teaching Art Should Equip Children To:

- ★ Ask perceptive questions
- ★ Gain an understanding of Artists, Architects and designers both past and present
- ★ Experiment with Line, Shape, Form, Colour, Space and Texture.
- ★ Be confident to express themselves creatively
- ★ To be able to evaluate their own and others work

Threads of Learning

We have identified a set of key concepts or 'threads', that children will repeatedly revisit throughout their time at Finchale. Our threads are:

- ★ Painting and mixed media
- ★ Drawing
- ★ Craft and design
- ★ Sculpture and 3D

We have ensured that pupils will visit these threads once in EYFS, KS1 and KS2 as a minimum, each time building on key skills and understanding. We have a full progressive curriculum from EYFS to Year 6 so it is clear for all teaching staff what the children have done previously, in order to build upon this, what the objectives are in their topics and what their next steps would be.

Making Learning Memorable

At Finchale, we aim to make learning memorable through the careful planning and delivery of enriching activities. The children have many opportunities to use a wide range of materials and tools, take part in Art competitions and homework projects as well as Finchale's Art week and engage with enthusiastic teachers. Learning is practical where possible as we believe this helps learning 'stick'. Planning is carefully mapped across school to ensure that, when appropriate, links are made with other subject areas to deepen children's understanding.

Organisation

Our Art Curriculum is drawn from a range of resources which include but are not restricted to: Kapow website and resource videos, teacher's vast knowledge of art in their year groups, Twinkl and BBC Bitesize websites. Individual teachers will also use other websites or resources as is

needed for each topic. Art is normally linked to a class topic and therefore resources can come from various places.

Art is part of children's learning roughly every other half term; this is organised alongside Geography, History, Music and D&T learning with British Values woven throughout.

Long term plans and the Progression of Skills, detail the units taught and the sequence of learning through school. Teachers identify their content from these and provide knowledge organisers for each unit of work. The knowledge organisers have a clear knowledge and skill development focus and place importance and priority on developing a child's vocabulary understanding and use.

The content for each year group, along with long-term plans, content can be found on our school website: www.finchale.durham.sch.uk .

Resources

We use a range of resources to support our teaching within Art which include the following:

- <https://www.kapowprimary.com/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zmyvcxs>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zxv346f>
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/>

We are continually adapting and amending our resources to meet the needs of our children.

Assessment

Our subject leader for Art will oversee the planning and monitoring of pupils' work. Throughout a unit we will continually assess children's current knowledge and previous learning. Teachers will ensure all pupils have met the objectives of their year group, topic and specific thread and pass this information on to the next teacher

Assessments will be 'high challenge and low threat' and could be undertaken using the following methods (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Observation of pupils
- Review of Sketchbooks by class teacher and subject leader
- Talking with pupils
- Evaluating our own and others Art
- Self-assessment
- Peer assessment
- Discussion and debates

["Art is a place for children to learn to trust their ideas, themselves and to explore what is possible."](#)
Maryann Kohl