

Art and Design

Intent

At Westcott Primary School, we value art and design as a vital part of the childrens learning journey. Our curriculum allows curiosity, creativity and self-expression to develop whilst introducing them to a range of techniques, materials and artists, crafts people and designers. Our children will experiment, invent and take risks creating their own art which will allow them to explore their identity though art and design.

Implementation

Our bespoke art and design curriculum provides a clear and comprehensive scheme of work. Both substantive and disciplinary knowledge are progressive and embedded, but our scheme is designed with flexibility in its content and outcomes, to allow for creativity. Giving our pupils autonomy, increases motivation and promotes their own independence by making creative decisions about their work. Children develop their disciplinary knowledge in drawing, painting, sculpture and craft design technique and are able to evaluate and analyse a range of art works using the formal elements of art. The curriculum covers a wide range of significant artists, including artists who were born locally and current working artists. Throughout both KS1 and KS2, children document their learning in a sketch book: pupils are encouraged to use their imagination through a wide variety of media and manipulative skills.

Impact

Children will have an awareness of a broad range of artists and craftspeople, and be able to consider and discuss the artworks they come across. We want our pupils to be confident to explore, experiment and take risks, placing value on the process and journey that they take, not just on the finished product. Most importantly, we want children to have developed an appreciation of the art around them and to have enjoyed a creative outlet – a means of self-expression and pleasure.

At Westcott Primary, the children say that art is... "the key to expression. Sketch books are your own: you have freedom."

Our artists

Our art curriculum celebrates all children for who they are and helps them to become the best artists they can be. We work hard to create confident, independent artists who can articulate their own creative journeys. We encourage experimentation, risk and innovation and we aim to be less focussed on the outcome and more focussed on the creative journey.

The Sequence

Art sequences are designed in a way that children have the opportunity to practice their art skills in every lesson. Children study artists, designers and crafts people, not to make pastiches but so we can learn from the way they see the world. Creativity and independent outcomes are embedded into the sequences of learning supporting children to make their own creative choices and decisions, so that their art outcomes - whilst still being knowledge rich, are unique to the child and personal.

The Learning

Through art lessons, children will learn a wide range of skills, developing understanding and showing clear progression. Learning is built through weaving, layering and revisiting of experiences. Lessons are always practical in nature and encourage experimental and exploratory learning with sketchbooks used throughout the school to document ideas. Children are able to talk confidently about their own learning journey.

The Teaching

Children have lots of different kinds of opportunities and experiences, which are all underpinned by creative use of drawing within sketch books. We understand that creativity can be fragile and lessons are delivered in ways that children are involved in the evaluation, dialogue and decisions making about the quality of their outcome and the improvements they need to make.