

Art and Design Curriculum

Intent

At St. Austin's Catholic Primary School, we believe that Art and Design is a fundamental aspect of a broad and balanced curriculum, providing pupil with the opportunity to develop their creativity, critical thinking, and self-expression. Our curriculum is designed to engage, inspire, and equip pupil with the knowledge and skills needed to experiment, invent, and create their own works of art, craft, and design.

Our Art and Design curriculum aligns with our whole-school Curriculum, supporting the Gospel Values that underpin our mission. We ensure that all pupils, regardless of ability, background, or experience, can access a rich and inclusive arts education that develops confidence, cultural appreciation, and personal growth.

We recognise the power of visual literacy and the role of art in shaping personal, social, and global identities. By exploring both historical and contemporary artists—including female, non-Western, and digital artists—our pupils develop an understanding of the evolution of art and its relevance in today's world. Our program also highlights how creative industries, including digital design, animation, and illustration, contribute to the global economy.

In alignment with our global citizenship initiative, we embed cross-cultural influences in our curriculum, ensuring that pupil appreciate the diverse forms of artistic expression from around the world. Art at St. Austin's also connects with sustainability and environmental responsibility, encouraging pupils to engage in eco-conscious artistic practices.

Through structured opportunities to develop technical skills, critique art, and express themselves through a variety of media, we prepare our pupils not only for secondary education but for lifelong engagement with the arts.

Implementation

Art and Design is taught progressively across all year groups, ensuring that knowledge and skills are sequenced and built upon each year. The curriculum is structured as follows:

1. Curriculum Structure

- Art is taught in blocks depending on the topic or one lesson a week each term, ensuring deep immersion in artistic techniques.
- Every pupil has their own sketchbook, fostering a sense of ownership and independent artistic development.
- Retrieval practice is embedded into the curriculum, allowing pupil to revisit prior knowledge and strengthen their skills over time.

2. Core Artistic Skills

All pupils will develop expertise in:

- Drawing, painting, printing, sculpture, and digital art
- Exploring the work of artists, craft-makers, and designers to inform their own work
- Using subject-specific vocabulary with confidence to articulate artistic choices and critique artwork
- Improvising with materials and developing resilience in creative problem-solving

3. Digital Art and Technology Integration

- Digital literacy is a key focus, and pupils will explore:
 - Graphic design and animation using tablets and computers
 - Photography and image editing
 - 3D modelling and digital sculpture
- This approach aligns with the school's Digital Literacy initiative, preparing pupils for creative careers.

4. Sustainability and Environmental Art

- Art projects incorporate recycled materials, eco-sculptures, and nature-inspired art.
- Pupils learn about environmental themes in art, linking to the school's Forest School and sustainability efforts.

5. Cross-Curricular Links

- Art is integrated with history, geography, science, and literacy.
- Pupils study the visual storytelling of different cultures, reinforcing reading comprehension and vocabulary development.
- Art projects align with Spanish and Mandarin lessons, creating bilingual art pieces that celebrate language learning.

6. Extracurricular and Real-World Experiences

- Museum and gallery visits to explore professional artwork
- Workshops with visiting artists (including contemporary and digital artists)
- Art clubs, competitions, and exhibitions showcasing pupil work

Impact

By the end of their time at St. Austin's, pupils will have developed:

- Confidence in their artistic abilities, applying learned skills in independent and collaborative projects.
- A deep understanding of art history and cultural diversity, recognizing how different artistic traditions have shaped the world.
- The ability to critique and evaluate art, using accurate terminology and informed opinions.
- An awareness of career pathways in the creative industries, understanding the role of art beyond the classroom.
- Technical skills in traditional and digital media, aligning with the school's Digital Literacy strategy.
- A sense of environmental responsibility, applying sustainable practices in their artwork.

Assessment and Progress Tracking:

- Teachers assess progress through sketchbook development, observational assessments, and peer critiques.
- Regular retrieval tasks and self-assessments ensure pupils reflect on their learning journey.
- End-of-year portfolios provide a visual record of artistic growth and progression.

Through this enriched and well-rounded approach, pupils leave St. Austin's ready for secondary school, equipped with creativity, confidence, and a passion for artistic expression.