



Art and Design Policy 2025-2026

Art and Design Subject Leaders: Mrs L Walton and Mrs A Toomey

"I found I could say things with colour and shapes that I couldn't say any other way—things I had no words for." **Georgia O'Keeffe**

Curriculum Intent Statement

At Owston Park Primary Academy, we provide a bespoke, knowledge-rich curriculum with the purpose of increasing the quantity and quality of what our children know, enabling them to develop a wealth of knowledge and cultural capital to draw upon and build upon throughout their lives. We believe that children need to see how what they are learning is connected to a body of greater knowledge and that knowledge across those bodies is interchangeable.

Children need to understand about concepts, and how these concepts inter-relate. Curriculum literacy requires understanding of the meaning, use and justification of curriculum concepts through respecting individual subject traditions. We have created a curriculum based on distributed practise and regular testing which provides coherence and helps knowledge to move into long-term memory, to become declarative and procedural. Through its structure, defined by details not by titles, children are supported to navigate their way through a meaningful, inter-related curriculum rather than one which is random, based on tenuous skills progressions. Our curriculum is about addressing social injustice so that our children leave us with a love of locality, happiness, dignity and strong emotional literacy. They will leave us with the keys to unlock the powers of the powerful. The national curriculum 'provides children with an introduction to essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens.' It introduces pupils to the best that has been thought, said and done and helps engender and appreciation of human creativity and achievement. At Owston Park we are keen also to emphasise to children the way in which 'the best that has been thought and said and done' impacts upon their own life, today, living in North Doncaster. We have a clear idea of what knowledge, words and concepts we want children to learn in each subject. Crucially we also know where the 'horizontal' and 'vertical' links are. Vertical links are those links WITHIN a subject year to year (the concept of 'empire' for example, or 'warfare' or 'colonisation'). Horizontal links are those links ACROSS subjects within a year group (such as linking the study of Romans with a study of Christianity, the concept of settlements, the design of villages, the concept of leadership, Roman artwork etc.). The impact of our curriculum will be seen not only in measurable attainment and progress, but in that Owston Park Primary Academy's students are confident, enthusiastic and curious young people, who are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to live a purposeful and fulfilling life.

Curriculum Themes

Knowledge Rich  The basis of our curriculum is powerful knowledge – by teaching ‘the best that has been thought, said and done’, we open up our children’s minds, ignite their curiosity and engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement. Key knowledge for each subject has been carefully considered by subject leaders alongside class teachers, and is codified in our bespoke Knowledge Organisers.	Evidence based  Our cumulative approach is rooted in neuroscience and educational research. We use regular retrieval practise to help to commit key knowledge to children’s long term memory. ‘Memory is the residue of thought’ – the more we think about something, the more likely we are to remember it. Our assessment reflects this, measuring the knowledge which children retain, so we can be confident that they’ve truly learnt it.	Cumulative and coherently sequenced  Children learn explicitly planned interconnected webs of carefully sequenced and discretely taught conceptual knowledge, which are revisited in subsequent contexts enabling children to build up networks of connected information as schema. Discretely teaching conceptual knowledge means it becomes easier for children to add new information to existing schema, as new knowledge ‘sticks’ to prior knowledge.	Depth for all  All children receive quality first teaching. Content is not differentiated, so no knowledge is out of bounds for any child, because every student has an entitlement to access powerful knowledge which opens the door to a world beyond our own individual experiences. New information is introduced in small steps, with lots of modelling and scaffolding, enabling children to build confidence. The culture at Owston Park celebrates mistakes and uses them as a teaching point.
Vocabulary Rich  Vocabulary is explicitly planned for and taught within each unit. Vocabulary is the key to unlocking and understanding the knowledge. Discussion and structured learning conversations are a key feature of wider curriculum lessons.	Enrichment  Our topics provide the opportunity to bridge our children’s cultural capital deficit through enrichment – educational visits, visitors into school and topic launches. The substance of the knowledge taught inspires awe and wonder.	Community and Identity  Our curriculum is built on meaningful local links to encourage our children to celebrate our rich heritage. Parents are invited in at least once per term for topic landings to celebrate children’s learning.	Core skills developed  Topics are underpinned by a key text which draws upon and builds schema to help contextualise the key knowledge which children have learnt. Opportunities for extended writing are built into the curriculum. There are high expectations of core skills across the curriculum.

Art and Design Intent, Implementation and Impact

Intent	Implementation	Impact
To produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences.	• A wide variety of enriching teaching approaches and a range resources are encouraged, e.g. through quality first teaching, providing the children with different mediums to use in their exploration. • Children are given sketch books to record their ideas and experiences in, either through first or second hand observation. The children are encouraged to explore different mediums and evaluate which one would be best to use. • Children are encouraged to design their own artwork taking inspiration from various outlets including other artists work.	Children will enjoy learning and taking part in Art and Design lessons and be excited to learn. Children will achieve age related expectations in Art and Design. Children will be enthused to find out more about various artists. Children will develop their evaluation and analytical skills.
To become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques.	• Children observe quality first teacher modelled examples to support their understanding and development. • Children are exposed to a wide range of resources to be used in various art and design techniques. • Art and Design lessons at Owston Park are taught discretely, to ensure children are aware of how the knowledge and skills they are learning fit into the bigger picture of their learning journey. • Art and Design lessons are skill and knowledge rich, and our bespoke curriculum has been carefully designed to provide opportunities for children to revisit and build upon their prior learning, through concepts – these concepts enable children to draw vertical links (learning linking to learning in a prior year group) and horizontal links (learning from other topics or other subjects within their year group).	Children will have a broad knowledge and understanding of the different mediums and techniques. Children will become proficient in their art and design techniques. Children will retain key skills and knowledge and build upon these each year.

To evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design.	• Our art and design curriculum develops children's understanding of the key concepts, they are visited and revisited throughout children's learning journeys. • Children are encouraged to analyse and evaluate their art work throughout the learning process to ensure that the creative process is communicated clearly. • Vocabulary is explicitly taught in art and design to enable children to develop and understanding of key concepts, which are covered in multiple year groups to ensure prior knowledge is being built on and schema is being developed, allowing for deeper conclusions to be drawn and comparisons to be made across time periods studied. • Knowledge Organisers support learning through daily and weekly review in learning key dates and vocabulary.	Children can show their critical evaluation skills by analysing and evaluating not only their art work but work of other artists. Children will retain knowledge about relevant information. Children will have a rich vocabulary that they can apply.
To know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.	• Each art and design topic links to an artist past or present. This gives the children a wealth of knowledge of various artists where they can take inspiration from these artists to put into their own designs. • Where there are meaningful links to be drawn, e.g. when art from a period can help us to understand life during a period of history, cross-curricular learning enables children to deepen their understanding of various artists and the historical and cultural development of art forms.	Work is of good quality and demonstrates pupils are acquiring knowledge, skills and vocabulary. Children will retain knowledge about relevant information. Children will be able to draw on prior learning to draw comparisons between various artists.
Develop Core skills.	• Art and Design lessons provide opportunities for children to develop core skills - children are encouraged to use maths when measuring and using shape in their art work. Also to use their English learning to write in length to evaluate their final pieces and evaluate the different mediums they use throughout the design process. • Children are given feedback on language and literacy skills and expected to correct spelling, punctuation or grammar mistakes in green pen. • Children read and research about various different artists.	Children's art and design work reflects the same high expectations as the core curriculum subjects. Children are proud of their work – this is reflected in their presentation and the quality of not only their piece but the work leading up to it.

To enable all children to receive the same quality of art and design education, ensuring that children are supported where support is necessary and that all children are challenged and stretched within their learning.	In art and design, this looks like: • All children will be provided with the opportunity to learn artistic skills and techniques. • Setting tasks of increasing difficulty. Not all children complete all tasks, and additional resources are available to scaffold children's learning. • Using classroom assistants to support children individually or in groups. • Children may be taught in small groups for intervention, and vocabulary or key information from knowledge organisers may be pre-taught to specific children for a keep up, not catch up approach. • Collaborative, group and paired work, and mixed ability groupings, enabling children to learn from their peers.	A large proportion of children reach age related expectations in Art and Design. SEN children and children working towards year group expectations feel supported and enjoy art and design lessons. Data monitoring ensures children are targeted for intervention when not on track for both knowledge and skill based learning. Enrichment opportunities are subsidised for pupil premium and disadvantaged children.
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THE FOUNDATION STAGE

Art and Design is a significant part of the new EYFS framework, through expressive art and design. The children are given opportunity to be creative and explore various creative activities, during continuous provision, the children are given the opportunity to paint, colouring mixing, mark making and collage. At the creative table children are provided with a range of resources including feather, lolly sticks and recycled materials and encouraged to explore the different materials and tools available to them. The children are encouraged to create their designs, explain their workings and express the improvements they can make next time.

TIME ALLOCATION

In order to ensure our curriculum is broad and balanced, we teach every subject each term. We understand that time constraints may mean that lessons do not achieve an equal time allocation on a weekly basis, but on a termly basis Art and Design should be taught as often as Design and Technology, with a rough expectation of an hour a week, although this may be more or less during certain weeks.

PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

The planning process at Owston Park Primary begins with the national curriculum and our curriculum drivers, to ensure that the topics we teach include the powerful knowledge – the best that has been thought, said and done – and are enhanced by our locality and our own unique heritage. . Formative assessment is an integral and continuous part of the teaching and learning process at Owston Park Primary and much of it is done informally as part of each teacher's day to day work. Teachers integrate the use of formative assessment strategies such as: effective questioning, clear learning objectives, the use of success criteria, effective feedback and response in their teaching and marking and observing children participating in activities. Planning may be annotated and those who need more support can be identified on plans through use of A.F.L. Findings from these types of assessment are used to inform future planning. Teacher assessment in Art and Design gives an accurate overall understanding of children's learning and coloured learning objectives relating to the outcome of each individual lesson give a snapshot of understanding on a lesson by lesson basis. Teachers analyse trends and any common recurrences will inform future planning.

Teachers report attainment in Art and Design to the subject leader who monitors trends.

MARKING & FEEDBACK

- Marking should always be focused on the Learning Objective.
- Children are given opportunities to self-assess their learning against the Learning Challenge where possible, using the metacognition colours familiar to them.
- Feedback should perform 3 purposes; ensure children understand what they have done well; ensure children are clear about how to improve; ensure children make visible signs of improvement.
- Marking should always 'close the gap' and give an improvement suggestion; of which there are 4 types o a challenge prompt o a reminder prompt; o a scaffold prompt e.g. a questions or unfinished questions, steps to complete tasks o an example prompt
- Children to have opportunities to self and peer assess their work, when appropriate. This should be recorded.
- When the arrow icon is shown it indicates what the next step for the child will be or action to complete, either as a consolidation activity or an opportunity to extend learning.
- Wherever possible, the checking or marking of work will be done with the child who will be given the opportunity to ask questions and self-correct.

INCLUSION

Our curriculum is planned so that all pupils can take part, enjoy learning and achieve their best, whatever their starting points or needs. We use adaptive teaching to support children with different abilities, interests and needs, making sure that everyone feels included and able to succeed. We celebrate diversity and encourage pupils to respect and learn from each other's differences. By removing barriers and providing the right support, we ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive and develop a love of learning.

DIVERSITY

At Owston Park, we are committed to ensuring that our art and design curriculum reflects the diversity of wider society and the world. Children explore a broad range of artists, designers, movements, and cultural traditions, allowing them to recognise that creativity is shaped by many different voices and perspectives. We actively weave diversity through our art and design teaching by:

- Exploring the work and contributions of artists and designers from different ethnic, cultural, and social backgrounds.
- Studying artistic traditions and design innovations from around the globe, highlighting the interconnectedness of creative expression.
- Promoting an understanding of how diverse communities have influenced both local and national art and design.
- Encouraging pupils to critically examine artworks and design objects to understand representation, symbolism, and differing viewpoints.
- Providing opportunities to challenge stereotypes and celebrate the achievements of underrepresented groups within the arts.

By embedding diversity into our curriculum, we aim to develop pupils' appreciation of global creativity and foster empathy, preparing children to become thoughtful, informed, and open-minded creators in today's multicultural world.

MONITORING AND SUBJECT LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

The subject leader's role is to empower colleagues to teach wider curriculum lessons to a high standard and support wider curriculum subject leaders in the following ways. Their role includes leading, managing, monitoring, motivating, training and guiding colleagues.

- Knowing the curriculum requirements of their subject throughout school, and using their knowledge of their subject to create road maps of the learning journey and assist teachers in developing knowledge organisers, ensuring that the content maintains fidelity with the national curriculum.
- Subject leaders monitor medium term plans and work alongside class teachers to ensure that pupils receive full coverage of the National Curriculum.
- Showcasing and raising the profile of their subject throughout school, e.g. through displays etc.
- Monitoring their subject through book scrutinises, lesson observations, data analysis and pupil interviews to ensure comprehensive monitoring of wider curriculum subjects and to inform them of the quality of the wider curriculum provision across the school.
- Keeping up to date on current issues; disseminating relevant information and providing training for staff members (either directly or through other professionals).
- Identifying and acting on subject specific development needs of staff members with support from SLT - books are scrutinised by SLT throughout the term with a compliance check completed half termly and feedback is provided.

- Monitoring expectations, provision and attainment across the school and providing feedback to develop practice further in order to raise standards.
- Providing necessary equipment and maintaining it to a high standard, managing the subject budget effectively.

WIDER CURRICULUM NON-NEGOTIABLES :

- Key vocabulary should be displayed within the classroom, as should resources which support key knowledge e.g. timelines, diagrams.
- Learning objectives and titles to be present in children's books. The title should contain a context and a 'so that' so children understand how what the activity links to the learning. The learning challenge should be highlighted in the corresponding colour according to the metacognitive level achieved.
- Vocabulary, particularly referring to the subject's concepts, should be explicitly taught within the lesson.
- Presentation expectations in wider curriculum lessons to mirror expectations in core subjects.