



Art and DT at Essex

Intent

At Essex, we believe every child is creative, and so equip them with the knowledge, skills and opportunities to become visual thinkers. Our curriculum is designed to develop imagination and creativity, enabling pupils to:

- Think, observe and analyse the world around them
- Improve their mastery of Art and DT skills and techniques through drawings, paintings and sculptures
- Develop the skills, concepts and knowledge necessary for them to express responses to ideas and experiences in visual forms
- Express themselves, their views, feelings and opinions imaginatively

The Art and DT curriculum inspires and engages all our pupils, by linking their learning to other subject areas through themes including, 'Other Worlds' and 'Made of More'. Its content is inclusive and diverse, allowing all pupils access to the world's most inspirational artists and influential art and design movements from a range of cultures and epochs - thus helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

Implementation

Pupils are delivered a vocabulary and skill based bespoke curriculum, which is essential to successful acquisition of knowledge, skills and understanding of the subjects. We believe that practical hands-on skills based projects are essential in developing pupils' understanding, creativity and innovation as this unlocks their full potential. It teaches our pupils real life skills, bridging the gap from where they are now and potentially what they can become.

Each year group have six units, three Art and Design units and three Design and Technology units. The curriculum is designed to develop our pupils' critical abilities and understanding of their own and others heritage through studying key artists to show diversity and representation of different cultures. Key skills are also identified and mapped across each year group to show progression. Our key focus on skills means that pupils are given the opportunity to practise and develop mastery in all aspects of Art and DT, this is supported by a wide range of quality resources, which are used to support pupils' confidence in the use of different media. Art and DT are also both embedded through cross-curricular links, where pupils participate in a creative activity for special events in school. We have worked alongside Bow Arts to create a bespoke curriculum and multiple different year groups have had the opportunity to work with them.

Impact

Outstanding teaching and learning practices are embedded at the core of Art and DT lessons making links to the wider world. Pupils are provided with opportunities to develop transferrable skills and attributes that can be used beyond school. Each unit introduces an inspirational artist to enable pupils to recognise and be familiar with their contribution to the Arts, this makes pupils more confident in expressing their ideas and evaluating their own and others' work. Monitoring of Art and DT planning and sketch books allows us to quality assure curriculum coverage and progression of skills throughout the school.

Enrichment

Educational visits, art projects and workshops enable pupils at Essex to experience what creativity and innovation is like in the real world, giving them the opportunity to build on their talents. Through exploration and working collaboratively with the local community, our pupils will appreciate how art and design contribute to the wellbeing, culture, creativity and wealth of our nation. We have also hosted Art Exhibitions to showcase pupils work, as well as taking part in the Art Matters Exhibition in UEL.