

Belvedere Infant and Nursery School

Art Curriculum Rationale

Intent:

Our Art curriculum at Belvedere Infants allows children to be provided with high quality materials that inspires them, challenges them, and allows them the opportunities to be inventive, take risks and experiment in a creative, visual, tactile, and sensory manner. We allow children's imagination, individuality, and inventiveness to be celebrated and valued whilst exploring a range of artists and their techniques through long lasting memorable experiences.

We at Belvedere Infants see Art as a vital part of the Primary Curriculum as it provides a means of expression for all children in a more personalized way, regardless of their competence in verbal and written communication. It is as a subject that awakens the senses, it opens the heart and mind to possibilities and fuels the imagination keeping the magic alive. We see Art as a process of learning that helps to create ourselves and experience the world in different ways supporting the bigger picture view of life, beauty, symbols, spirituality, and storytelling. Children develop their focus, hand-eye coordination and strengthen their attention when developing skills in drawing, painting, 3D modelling, printing, collage, ICT and their ability to use materials and processes to communicate ideas, feelings and meaning individually or socially through collaborative working.

Just as the artists the children learn about, we teach the children how to become independent learners making informed decisions and reflecting on their work and others through a process of evaluation where the children learn new skills and master techniques so that they can independently adapt and develop. We believe art should promote diversity and be used to express the children's personal and cultural identity. As a result, this will help our children to become critical, reflective thinkers and foster an enjoyment and an appreciation of the visual arts and the richness of our diverse cultural heritage.

Implementation:

During practical weekly Art lessons children are engaged and motivated and generate a love for learning, they not only get to have lots of enjoyment being creative and expressing their imagination, opinions, and ideas but children develop a willingness to explore what has not existed before. We strive for developing children's awareness that the process of creating art is equally as valuable as the finished product. Our children show great enthusiasm during art lessons, this is evident in the fantastic artwork that they produce, much of which goes on display in school.

Children in KS1 have the opportunity to observe, discuss ideas and create their artwork with teachers working with groups of children to support the development and refinement of different techniques. Time is allocated at the end of each Art lesson for feedback and evaluation. Examples will be shown to the class and children are invited to give their opinions on the work, saying what they think and feel. They are encouraged to give praise and give constructive feedback to try to identify possible ways in which the work could be developed in a future lesson. We encourage our children to gain a sense of pride and achievement in their own artwork and take pleasure in sharing it with a wider audience. Each class has an Art class book and children's work for that week is captured and stuck into the class book with children then sharing their opinions and thoughts, alongside the pictures as we highly value pupil voice. Children have individual sketchbooks whereby they complete assessment pieces every term.

At Belvedere Infants we recognise the fact that we have children of differing ability in all our classes, and so planning considers the needs of the children in the class and the prior experience they have had in Art and Design. SEN children participate fully in art lessons with teachers providing suitable learning opportunities that are matched to their individual needs whenever necessary. Creativity is something which transcends academic ability, allowing all children to achieve and succeed in art at their own personal level.

Our Art lessons are structured around the children's half-termly IPC topic and reflect and build upon what they are learning in their other lessons. Teachers consider the effectiveness of the lessons provided on 'International Primary Curriculum (IPC) and use these ideas as a starting point for their lessons. As necessary, the teachers then adapt the lessons to ensure that the lessons provide suitable challenge for all children. Teachers will plan for any necessary health and safety requirements for their lesson. Children create individually, in partners and collaboratively and they sculpt, collage, draw - using a wide range of media - or paint with. There is a progression in the skills taught as the children move from one year group to the next in school to ensure that the children have as wide and varied experience as possible.

We encourage creative work in the Foundation Stage (EYFS) as this is part of the foundation stage of the National Curriculum. The different aspects of the arts are encompassed within 'Expressive Arts and Design' in the EYFS Curriculum; however, elements can also be found in other areas of learning (Physical development, Literacy and Mathematics). This curriculum lends itself to an integrated approach to learning. Nursery and Reception teachers plan quality learning opportunities for art using the Early Years Curriculum. There is an emphasis on independence and self-initiated learning, which enables foundation stage children to freely explore resources and pursue their own creative interests and talents in addition to the planned learning experiences. The range of experience encourages children to make connections

between one area of learning and another and so extends their understanding. We provide a rich environment in which we encourage and value creativity. Children experience a wide range of activities that they respond to, using the various senses. The activities that they take part in are imaginative and enjoyable.

Children wear special Art aprons during Art lessons which helps the children not only stay clean but to help them recognise that this is a specific subject. There are themed Art days throughout the year, we collaborate with RE and take part in a NATRE competition which the children have enjoyed previously and know they will also this year. We are looking forward to multi-cultural week whereby we will be creating a range of artwork using different media. In Summer 2 we will be holding a Art Gallery whereby all children will complete an Art piece and parents will be invited to come in and purchase their child's piece.

We strive for developing and improving our links in the wider community and encouraging home learning through the use of our online Art Gallery on the school's website.



Our Curriculum Impact - How do we ensure that children are learning the curriculum?

Teachers assess children's work in Art and Design technology by observing them working during lessons. They assess the progress made by the children against the learning objective set and verbal feedback is offered throughout the lesson, whilst not compromising a child's creativity. An integral part of art is fostering the children's ability to annotate their own work to make decisions about techniques and materials. Children will be given opportunities to evaluate their own work and the work of their peers. Self-evaluation and reflection by pupils are key to the children's understanding of their own learning and development of skills.

Termly, the children's work will also be moderated by the staff when all children produce more of a formal assessment piece in their sketchbooks where progression of skills can be identified helping to substantiate the class teacher's assessment. Pieces of artwork will be compared and used in the process of a no marking system. The 'process' undertaken to arrive at the finished piece of artwork will also be taken into account. A record of each child's achievement and effort is written on their annual report and may also be discussed at parents' evenings.