



Art in the Early Years – Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive arts and design involves supporting children to explore, develop and express their ideas, creativity and imagination through a wide range of media and materials. In the Early Years, art provides rich opportunities for children to make sense of the world around them through colour, texture, form and design. Through drawing, painting, modelling and collage, children begin to experiment with techniques and develop control in their creative expression.

The frequency and range of children's artistic experiences – including access to a wide variety of tools, materials and creative opportunities both indoors and outdoors – supports the development of fine motor control and precision. These experiences enable children to develop confidence in using different media and to explore how materials can be combined to create different effects. Opportunities to revisit and refine skills over time support children in developing mastery and resilience within their artistic work.

Engaging in creative activities also strengthens children's communication and language development. Talking about their creations, explaining their choices and sharing their work with others helps to build confidence and self-esteem. These experiences enrich vocabulary and support language structures that underpin learning across the curriculum.

Exposure to a wide range of artists, styles and cultural influences supports children's understanding of the diverse world in which they live. As well as building foundational artistic knowledge and skills, these experiences inspire creativity and curiosity. Enriching children's vocabulary through art is vital in supporting later learning and knowledge acquisition.

At Sunnyside Primary Academy, we recognise that pupils' artistic development begins well before formal subject teaching in Year 1. Our Reception curriculum provides a strong foundation for artistic knowledge, skills and techniques, fully aligned with Development Matters and the Early Learning Goals within the Expressive Arts and Design area of learning.

Through our carefully sequenced, topic-based EYFS curriculum, children explore art through a wide range of media, techniques and creative experiences. These early experiences are deliberately designed to feed directly into the Primary Knowledge Curriculum (PKC) Art sequence from Year 1 to Year 6, ensuring a coherent and continuous progression of artistic knowledge and skills across the school.

Development Matters	Statutory Framework: Early Learning Goals
Children in Reception will be learning to: - Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. - Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings. - Draw with increasing complexity and detail.	<u>Creating with Materials</u> By the end of the EYFS, children at the expected level of development will: - Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. - Share their creations, explaining the process they have used. - Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing

Transition from Reception to Year 1

Early Learning Goals	KS1 National Curriculum Objectives
<u>Expressive Art & Design: Creating with Materials</u> - Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. - Share their creations, explaining the process they have used.	Pupils should be taught: - To use a range of materials creatively to design and make products. - To use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination. - To develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space. - About the work of a range of artists, craft makers and designers, describing the difference and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work.

Our Reception Curriculum

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic	All About Me	Space	Superheroes	Dinosaurs	Minibeasts	Fairy Tales
Art: Creating with Materials	- Explore mark-making using a range of tools (pencils, crayons, paint, natural materials). - Create simple representations of familiar people, places and objects (self, home, school). - Begin to talk about	- Explore light and dark through drawing and painting (linked to space/night). - Use different media to create textures (collage, printing, chalk). - Represent ideas about the sky, stars and space creatively.	- Create artwork based on people in the community (portraits, role-play art). - Use tools with increasing control (scissors, brushes). - Explore pattern and simple design. - Recognise	- Explore natural materials to create art (fossil rubbings, textures, patterns). - Use clay or malleable materials to make simple forms. - Develop observational drawing of natural	- Create artwork based on local environments (landscape drawings, maps through art). - Use colour to represent seasons and environmental change. - Combine materials	- Create imaginative and narrative artwork inspired by stories (castles, mythical settings). - Explore differences between real and imaginary images. - Use a range of techniques to express ideas

	colours, shapes and textures. - Experiment with colour mixing (primary colours).	- Begin to evaluate own creations (“What did I make?”).	similarities and differences in artistic representations.	objects. - Talk about changes in materials and processes.	(mixed media). - Begin to explain choices in their artwork.	(painting, collage, model-making). - Share and talk about finished work and creative process.
Links to PKC	Year 1: Colour – primary and secondary colours, colour mixing, brush use and brushstrokes. Year 2: Colour and Shape – developing colour mixing, warm/cool colours and tints/shades. Year 5: Style in Art – colour theory and use of colour in abstract art.	Year 1: Line – using lines as basic tools, drawing with different materials and imagination. Year 3: Line – line weight, contour drawing and printing to create line. Year 4: Drawing – using line and observation to create detailed work.	Year 1: Architecture – design process, features of buildings and model making with mixed media. Year 3: Architecture – structure, symmetry and creating designs using line and clay. Year 6: Renaissance Architecture – structure, form and drawing buildings with increasing accuracy.	Year 1: Style in Art / Narrative Painting – storytelling through art, brushstrokes and painting techniques. Year 2: History Painting – narrative artwork, characters and storytelling through images. Year 5: Style in Art – comparing styles and using artistic techniques to communicate ideas.	Year 1: Paintings of Children – observation, composition, colour matching and representing subjects. Year 2: Portraits and Landscapes – developing observational drawing and painting skills. Year 6: Impressionism and Post-Impressionism – observation of the natural world, colour and light.	Year 1: Sculpture – modelling with clay, building forms and understanding materials. Year 3: 3D Form – clay modelling, relief and constructing form. Year 5: Art from Western Africa – creating sculptures and relief forms using mixed media.