

Philosophy

We are an Arts Mark Gold Award School with a creative aim of encouraging pupils to think and explore creatively, and to feel inspired to take an interest in the world around them. We strive for achievements in a manner that is tailored to individual learning needs and interests, delivered through a range of creative curriculums. Students are supported to develop a range of creative skills including to invent, create, problem-solve, and to reflect, and to transfer these skills to new situations in order to enjoy and make sense of the world around them. Students have the opportunity to develop practical skills including to refine art and design processes, and develop fine and gross motor skills. We place an importance on making links with a wider creative community, working with a range of arts organisations and Coventry special schools in order to enrich the learning experiences of our pupils.

Broad Goals

Our art & design curriculum is based on the key principles of the National Curriculum programme of study.

The national curriculum for art and design aims to ensure that all pupils:

- *Produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences*
- *Become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques*
- *Evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design*
- *Know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms*

We have adapted these aims to flow through a range of curriculum offers, tailored to meet the learning needs of our pupils. Pupils will have the opportunity to explore a range of contextual references by new and historic practitioners, including traditional art forms, photography, and installation. Pupils will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of practical art & design techniques including two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and textile processes.

We have specifically tailored creative focuses for our PMLD and ASD cohorts, written especially for their learning styles and interests. For our ASD cohort we have ASD Discovery, focusing on developing exploration of interests, curiosity and problem-solving skills. For our PMLD cohort we have PMLD Creativity, where pupils can develop their curiosity and response to a range of exciting learning experiences and stimuli.

Our Key Stage 5 curriculum is focused on ASDAN accreditation, where pupils can choose a preferred creative option including, music, art, DT and drama. Pupils also have the opportunity to participate in subjects such as carpentry and textiles. Creative work contributes towards the completion of ASDAN Personal Progress units such as Engaging in New Creative Activities. Pupils with a keen interest in the arts, and who show a talent for creative processes may also have the opportunity of attending Creative Bridges workshops at the Herbert Art Gallery to complete Arts Award accreditation.

As a member of the Coventry Special Schools Arts Network pupils have the opportunity to take part in a variety of creative experiences delivered by external practitioners, including dance, visual arts and drama workshops. These opportunities enable pupils to broaden their experiences and knowledge of the arts, and to showcase achievements to a wider audience, including performing at The Belgrade Theatre and Warwick Arts Centre. Organisations that we have been lucky to work with include Arts Connect, Coventry Music Hub, The MAC, DRAKE Music, Armonico Consort, Infuse Dance, Oily Cart and Open Theatre.

Student Outcomes and Interventions

We celebrate student achievements of our creative curriculums in a variety of ways to monitor student outcomes, including:

- Termly arts celebration assemblies and showcases of work.
- Progress wall data, work scrutiny, lesson observations, subject moderation & triangulation.
- Highlighting those pupils with a keen interest and/or ability in the arts through our More Able, Gifted & Talented register.
- Considering pupils from across the school to ensure opportunities are shared widely when working with external organisations and practitioners.
- ASDAN Accreditation.
- Arts Award in conjunction with Creative Bridges and the Herbert Art Gallery.
- Celebrating achievements in extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities, including visiting practitioners and external performances.

Development Strategies

In order to achieve our goals, and in support of the renewal of our Gold Arts Mark Award we are focusing on the following development strategies:

- *As subject leader of Art, be confident to quality assure teaching and progress through rigorous curriculum implementation and scrutiny in line with the new EIF.*
- *To raise the profile of the Arts and ensure our pupils are accessing a wide variety of learning through these mediums. Strengthening our relationship with external arts organisations in order to provide pupils with an enriched range of learning experiences.*

We are currently taking part the Rivers of the World project in conjunction with Thames River Trust, The British Council, and City of Culture 2021. An outcome of this will be developing a relationship with a partner school in Tanzania through sharing practice and pupil achievements. This will support our application of The International School Award. Pupils will participate in arts workshops with outcomes exhibited as part of City of Culture 2021. To coincide with Rivers of the World and City of Culture 2021 we will also be working with Open Theatre, with an aim of ensuring that all pupils experience the arts through enrichment opportunities. Work completed by pupils will be celebrated on a city-wide level, with the outcomes of the art workshops exhibited more widely.