



Art and design Policy

2026/2027

Purpose of study

A high-quality art and design education should engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design. As pupils progress, they should be able to think critically and develop a thorough understanding of art and design. They should also know how art and design both reflect and shape our history and contribute to the culture and creativity.

Aims

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

- produce creative work, explore their ideas and record their experiences
- become skilful 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

Key stage 1

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 differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work.

Key stage 2

Pupils should be taught to develop their techniques, including their control and their use of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design.

Pupils should be taught:

- to create sketch books to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas
- to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials
- about great artists, architects and designers in history.

What do we want Art to look like at Abbey?

At Abbey we want Art to be:

- Exciting
- Inspiring
- Creative and fun
- Celebrated (gallery for parents and other year groups to showcase their art)
- Expressive to allow our pupils to form opinions about art.
- Include a range of techniques and the opportunity to explore with different materials such as; water colours, paints, pastels, charcoal etc.

At Abbey we want children:

- To be able to independently utilise a range of materials presented to them with confidence
- To be able to experiment different styles of artwork using artistic techniques.
- To be able to explore and form opinions on various artists work and gain inspiration from them.
- To be confident in articulating their ideas and choices using artistic vocabulary such as tone, tint, strokes, shade etc.
- To be confident in critiquing their own work and that of others through justification.
- To be willing to take risks when exploring arrange of tools and techniques.
- To understand how art can enrich and be interpreted in different cultures and heritages.

Planning:

At Abbey we will plan a range of activities that will provide opportunities for children to:

- Record responses, including observations
- Develop an understanding of the work of artists, craftspeople and designers from a range of times and cultures, applying knowledge to their own work.
- Understand and apply the key principles of art: line, tone, texture, shape, form, space, pattern, colour, contrast, composition, proportion and perspective
- Respond to and evaluate art and craft including their own and others' work.

Teaching and learning:

Teachers ensure that classrooms provide a visually stimulating and creative environment that celebrates the process of learning, practising and developing a wide range of artistic skills. Art lessons follow a clear structure of **introduce, explore, experiment, design, make and evaluate**, enabling pupils to progressively develop their knowledge and skills and apply them confidently within their projects. Through high-quality teaching, pupils are encouraged to explore their creativity, take risks and express their ideas while developing an appreciation of art from a range of cultures and time periods. Where appropriate, meaningful cross-curricular links are made to enrich learning and enhance pupils' understanding across the curriculum.

For example:

- Teachers model techniques.
- Children explore materials and processes.
- Sketchbooks are used to develop ideas and record learning.
- Opportunities are provided for experimentation and creativity.
- Children discuss and evaluate artwork.
- Artists' work is studied to inspire learning.

EYFS

The EYFS team plans for children to experience a wide range of creative opportunities and to develop their artistic skills through the EYFS curriculum. Art is embedded within continuous provision as well as through focused art projects where specific skills are taught to develop other areas of their learning. Nursery and Reception classes take part in whole-school art projects, workshops, and events where appropriate, ensuring they are included in the wider creative life of the school. In the early years, children have access to a dedicated creative and imagination station, providing rich opportunities for exploration, expression, and creativity.

KS1 and KS2

Art will be taught through a carefully planned sequence of lessons within the school's overarching topics. This approach enables pupils to develop a range of artistic skills and apply them with increasing confidence and understanding. Teachers will ensure that a variety of artists are studied throughout the year, chosen to complement and enrich the topics being explored.

Inclusion in Art

At our school, we believe that every child is an artist and should have equal access to creative expression. Our art curriculum is designed to celebrate diversity, ensuring that all pupils—regardless of ability, background, or need—can participate, succeed, and feel valued. We achieve this by providing a range of accessible materials, adapted tasks, and supportive teaching strategies that respond to individual learning styles. Through adaptive teaching, we support all of our children including our SEND and disadvantaged pupils through various means to ensure they access the curriculum and develop the skills in the art curriculum.

Our Meadow room and rainbow room have a range of activities that allow for both sensory exploration as well as creative artwork opportunities. Our curriculum includes artists and art forms from different cultures, genders, and perspectives, helping children appreciate and respect the richness of the world around them. Through inclusive planning and classroom practice, we ensure that art is a joyful, empowering experience for all.