# St. Brendan’s Catholic Primary School

Art Rationale

The aim of the Art curriculum at St. Brendan’s Catholic Primary School is to engage children with a wide range of artistic experiences, to inspire children to express themselves creatively and to increase their confidence with different skills. Through Art, children’s imagination and talents will be showcased and celebrated. Our Art curriculum is based on experiential learning with a focus on making Art inclusive and practical.

Art is delivered on the principle of continuous provision because this offers the children independence in their work, choices and reflection. This continuous provision approach allows the teacher to work with small groups of children to scaffold up tasks in order to support children to achieve their best in Art. It also gives children the chance to embedded skills through independent tasks and practice previously taught skills.

Staff understand that Art has a huge impact upon children’s well-being and it makes a considerable contribution to developing their confidence and self-esteem. We ensure that our Art lessons are accessible to all, with opportunities for children to refine their self-regulation, team work, focus, resilience and problem solving. Through Art the children can develop their identity and express their individuality.

Our Art lessons offers opportunities to:

* Increase children’s cultural capital by immersing them in a range of media and art that reflect different societal cultures and norms;
* equip children with the skills, concepts and knowledge necessary for them to express their responses to ideas, feelings and experiences in a visual and tactile form;

* be able to identify and appreciate the work of other artists which reflect diversity;

* develop skills in drawing, painting, sculpture and craft and design using a variety of materials, enabling them to become independent learners;

* help children to develop socially through collaborative working;

* develop children’s awareness that the process of creating art is equally as valuable as the finished product.

In order to ensure children are appropriately supported and challenged, Art lessons (where Art is the driver) will follow a cycle of:

Introduction to artist/movement/skills etc.

Completing a final piece

Skills teaching lesson(s)

Practice lesson(s)

The rationale behind this lesson cycle is that children are implementing our school Learning Journey of Plan, Monitor and Evaluate. It also gives children the opportunity to discuss Art and to build up their own opinions of Art styles or artists that they like. Teachers use the initial lesson to accurately assess their class before teaching new skills. Children are then given the time to practice new techniques using a range of materials and to reflect upon their Art, working on self, peer and adult feedback to show improvements over time – this is when the children are in learning mode. This practice and reflection time will support children in making individual decisions about how they want to present and create their final art piece. When children are creating their final piece of work they are in performance mode so they know that they need to produce their best.

As pupils progress, they will learn new strategies whilst honing their artistic skills to create a desired outcome. The children will learn that Art can be embedded within other lessons, such as RE, Science, Maths and English. By using Art to enhance these subjects, the children will learn that it can be applied to all areas of learning. Our Art curriculum enables children to experience different aspects comprising of drawing, sketching, 3D modelling, ceramic work and painting, including oil paints, watercolours and acrylics. The children will use a wide range of materials to bring their art work to life to develop an understanding of how materials can add/change a piece of art.

Embedded in the centre of our Art curriculum is the need for children to develop their tier 2 and 3 Art vocabulary. This increases with each year group, resulting in children leaving year 6 with a wealth of art vocabulary. Research (Sinatra, Zygouris-Coe, and Dasinger, 2011) shows that vocabulary supports children to make meaning from what people say, and engage with new Art concepts. Without using high quality vocabulary, children cannot engage fully in conversation, analysis or build links between their learning.

In order to truly develop vocabulary; language and talk are essential in every lesson, with children given new vocabulary and an explanation of what it means. Using Alex Quigley’s ABC model children are expected to take on roles that either; Answer the questions, Build upon answers given or Contradict or contribute to the answers. Staff encourage children to use this vocabulary when talking about their work and to justify the choices they have made. This focus on vocabulary and talk will provide them with overarching metacognitive skills that can be used in other lessons, such as justification, explanation, descriptive and critiquing skills.

It is important that the Art the children create has a purpose of service outside of the classroom, such as creating something for the school or the wider community. By offering children a real-life service for their work they will realise the wider impacts of Art and develop a deeper understanding of the art they create.

In order for the children at St. Brendan’s to set themselves high aspirations, Art is celebrated and promoted across the school. Art is displayed in all classrooms and corridors to celebrate the work children have created, along with pupil voice which encourages children to explain their work, the skills they used and the decisions in making their final piece. Children are also given the opportunity to show and sell their artwork during our Art gallery showcases throughout the year. Children are encouraged to talk about their work to family and friends, focusing on the skills they used, the artists that influenced them and the decisions they made in creating the work.

We endeavour to have people from all walks of life to share how Art features in their life, whether it be as a hobby or in their professional lives. We have had professional artists in school to demonstrate their skills whist designing, drawing and painting our school hallways. The children have the opportunities to speak to these artists about their job, hear about the opportunities art offers and discuss their work with them. This art is displayed in all areas of the school for children to enjoy and be immersed in. By displaying art work it demonstrates the importance of creative thinking, has a positive impact on self-esteem and provides a motivational environment in which to learn and grow.