



Overview of Art at Sowe Valley Primary School

Vision (Intent)	Immersion (Our Offer)	Personalising the Curriculum to Sowe Valley (Implementation)
At Sowe Valley, we value Art and Design as an important part of every child's entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum. Art provides opportunities to develop and extend skills, while also allowing children to express their individual interests, thoughts and ideas. Through this, they learn to believe in their own creativity and recognise the unique contribution they can make. Art enables pupils to develop a natural sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around them, linking strongly to our school values. By exploring drawing, painting, sculpture and design techniques, children gain the skills and confidence to express themselves and to belong to a community of artists and learners who celebrate diversity, individuality and shared inspiration. Year on year, our curriculum introduces every member of our school community to a wide range of art and artists, from different cultures and periods. This encourages children to appreciate how art impacts and enhances societies and our surroundings, fostering respect, empathy and a sense of global belonging. Skills progress clearly each year, building on prior learning with increasing mastery of tools, techniques and artistic language. The art curriculum at Sowe Valley develops children's critical abilities and their understanding of their own and others' cultural heritages through studying a diverse range of artists and designers. Through effective teaching and carefully structured lessons, pupils develop their knowledge of the visual elements of art and design (line, tone, texture, colour, pattern, shape, 3D form). With an engaging and inclusive curriculum, children are supported to reach their full potential and to become confident, reflective and inspired young artists.	Current Practice: - Children will develop drawing, painting and sculpture skills each year at Sowe Valley. - Extra curricula provisions allow children to experience art outside of the classroom lessons (Christmas craft club, sewing club etc.) - Children showcase their termly art work in an open house gallery for parents. Further Development: - Every child will visit a gallery (Herbert) - Every child will have the opportunity to work with an artist. - Art enrichment day – focus on celebrating a specific artist.	The art curriculum at Sowe Valley is delivered as a spiral curriculum which allows for core skills to be repeatedly presented throughout a pupil's journey from EYFS to Y6, with deepening levels of difficulty/increasing complexity in lessons and reinforcing previous learning. Our art curriculum is taught via half termly art days where children are immersed in a skill-focused unit. By teaching in this way, children are able to see the art process from start to finish and fully immerse in the style of art being studied. Usually, children begin to develop skills in a specific area during their initial art day of the first half term and then revisit and build upon these skills in the second part of the half term to apply them to a 'showcase piece'. The focuses for each term are as follows: Autumn – Drawing/ Spring – Painting/ Summer – 3D Sculpture The skill focus of the term refers to an area of art in which the children are specifically aiming to develop their skills; however, children are shown how to combine and bring in other skill areas to enhance the focus e.g. in painting units they incorporate elements of drawing/in drawing units they may bring in elements of painting to add colour to their work but the teaching/modelling is based around the core skill being studied. By focusing on the same skill area across the school, the journey of progression is clear and apparent. All pupils engage with 'drawing' in sequence during their autumn term and gallery opportunities to showcase their work to parents/other year groups enable them to see just how their skills will grow/have grown as a drawer on their art journey. Similarly, in Spring and Summer term they enjoy this same experience with painting and sculpture. As an example - In Drawing: Children begin their journey experimenting making marks in EYFS and begin to develop more awareness over these marks recognising them as lines in Year 1. As they progress through Year 1 children learn how to change these lines in thickness, direction and style so that in Year 2 they can begin to develop their own texture and patterns to enhance their drawings. As children move into Year 3 they begin to develop a wider consideration for the materials used to draw and experiment with gradient, tone and shade so that they can add shadow and dimension to their drawings in Year 4. By the time pupil's reach Year 5 they have a greater understanding of how to draw from observation and are developing confidence in adding pattern, textures, dimension and shadows effectively and begin to consider proportion in their drawings. At the end of their drawing journey pupils have developed their own style of drawing and make artistic decisions to suit mood/purpose. In Painting and mixed media: Children begin in EYFS by painting with fingers, nature and to the rhythm of music developing their form of expression with paint. In Y1 they begin to explore colour and how to make and mix paints to create new colours. As they progress into Y1 they explore different brush strokes to create texture within their painting and begin to use mixed media to create dimension to their artwork. As children progress into Y3/4 they begin to experiment with adding white and black to paints to create different tones and shades of colour and they develop this skill over the years so that they can appreciate different forms of painting and mixed media in Y5/6.