How is Art is taught at Paddox Primary School?



Art Intent

Through Art at Paddox, we develop our children to be creative and experimental learners who are able to extend their skills using a range of media and materials, and express themselves in an individual, imaginative manor. Our vision is for children to understand and appreciate the whole artistic process and journey, and this is shared and signposted throughout the stages of each project.

Through drawing, painting, collage, textiles, 3D and digital art, we deliver the opportunity for children to learn about a wide range of art and artists, applying this knowledge and these skills to impact upon their own work.

Our aim is to encourage each child to take risks and experiment, then as they progress, begin to reflect on their ideas and techniques. In line with the school's REACH values, Art lessons require children to work hard and achieve to their greatest potential.



In our new subject-led curriculum, each year group experiences an in-depth block of Art and Design. Within this, the children complete an Art project, spread over several sessions in a half term. Each project gives our pupils the chance to delve deeply into an artistic focus, whilst developing specific skills. This includes drawing, painting, paper craft, sculpture and 3D form and printing.

During this block of learning, children will embark on an artistic 'journey', which focusses more than just producing a piece of art – the journey allows children to develop an understanding of an artist or artistic style, and practice and refine specific skills leading up to a final piece. As such, art lessons follow a general structure as follows...



Investigation – researching a focus artist and/or style, developing opinions and exploring similar art/styles. In our curriculum we investigate the work of a wide range of artists, both male and female, from a variety or time periods and cultures, including local artists. This is a fantastic way to support our own artistic creations and to practise our critical evaluation skills.

Skill - practicing the focus skill - this can be messy, investigative and a chance for children to really explore the skill and practice it in their sketch book.

Application - the final piece! This can happen inside or outside of the sketch book (e.g. for 3D modelling or larger pieces), but children should be able to see the clear application of the skills that they have been developing over the project.

Evaluation – this can be done in a variety of ways. At Paddox, we believe all art to be subjective and so we steer away from critiquing art work based on personal preference. Instead, children are taught to identify how and when a specific skill is used, and how to comment on this appropriately. We also provide a range of resources and guidance in order to both enable all children to access the skill, and also allow more artistic thinkers to develop their work in a way that they are inspired to do so.









Year 1 investigated the works of Landscape Artists, developed their skills of creating shape and colour through physical materials, then created a painting inspired by local artist, Lesley Whelan









Year 2 explored the work of 6 abstract artists and designed a chair for one of them, based on their style.

Art Impact

We use continuous assessment in Art throughout the year, using teacher judgement based on National curriculum aims which have been broken down into smaller skills, knowledge and understanding abilities.

Each child is unique in their abilities and approach to art. We look at skills and approach taken to their own artwork and the journey they take to assess, rather than the outcome of a final piece of work.

As skills and artistic knowledge is progressive and should be developed over time, we aim to show how a child has improved in these areas over time within their sketch books, which they carry through their key stage.

When Art is not the focus subject in a curriculum block, 'Pit Stops' are used to allow children to revisit prior learning and demonstrate what they have remembered (knowledge and skills) to allow for the further building of skills. This also allows us to demonstrate the importance of 'Learn More... Remember More".

