

ART AND DESIGN

CURRICULUM INTENT

“The arts make vivid the fact that neither words in their literal form nor numbers exhaust what we can know. The limits of our language do not define the limits of our cognition.”

Elliot Eisner

The vibrant range of learning children gain through the viewing, making and experiencing of art has been condensed by Eisner into ten lessons from which we have chosen the most arresting for us at Toot Hill School. Our ambition is not only to nurture and grow the personal talents of our pupils through exposure to a wide range of skills, process and techniques but further than this we are passionate about leading pupils into the world of creative arts. As teachers and guides we introduce pupils to the wide, varied and exciting world of art, so that they know about great artists, craft makers and designers and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

We recognise that pupils can come to Toot Hill School with fixed views about their ability in art. The curriculum is designed to build their skills and abilities and through this embolden their confidence in their making talents as they produce creative work and become proficient in drawing painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques. The Art & Design Curriculum is underpinned by an understanding of research on how we acquire knowledge and skills, aiming to follow a mastery-style framework through the process of revisiting core skills and techniques but with an increasing level of challenge at each phase. We develop the ability evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design creating cooperative and resilient environments for pupils to reflect upon their own and others' work.

Beyond the National Curriculum the Art department enriches our young learners through:

- Creating playful artwork through annual workshops for the 'Big Draw' and developing their knowledge and skills whilst gaining an 'Arts Award' qualification
- Enthusiastic students also play an important role in events that promote or celebrate achievements within the department, such as the Open Evenings and Exhibitions
- The celebration of our skilful creations through events such as the Summer Art Exhibition and Achievement Evening
- Enhancing our school environment through the creation 'Visual Arts' murals where pupils are able to design and create work around the school site
- Giving students an opportunity to contribute creatively to whole school design projects
- Participation in creative communities in the wider area through work shared with the Bingham Arts Group as well as work visits to care homes
- Taking pupils to Galleries, Museums and Exhibitions across the United Kingdom allowing them opportunities to interact with the work in person