



Curriculum overview for parents and carers

Art and design

Summary of key Art and design learning for Reception to Year 6.

	EYFS: Reception		
Drawing	Marvellous marks	Autumn lesson	Autumn wreaths Using natural items to create autumnal wreaths.
	Exploring mark-making and the language of texture, children use wax crayons and chalk to make rubbings on different surfaces. They use felt tips to explore colour and pencils to create observational drawings of their faces.	Christmas lesson	Salt dough decorations Creating and decorating Christmas tree decorations.
Painting and mixed media	Paint my world	Winter lesson	Threaded snowflakes Using threading skills to create snowflakes with pipe cleaners and beads.
	Creating child-led paintings using fingers and natural items as tools, children learn that colours can be mixed and that paintings can be abstract or figurative. They make collages and explore different painting techniques to create splatter pictures.	Spring lesson	Suncatcher Collecting flower petals to create card suncatchers.
Sculpture and 3D	Creation station	Easter lesson	Egg threading Threading coloured wool to create an egg pattern.
	Manipulating playdough and clay to make animal sculptures and their own creations, children begin to use language associated with forces: push, pull, twist, etc. They create natural landscape pictures using items they have found outdoors.	Summer lesson	Salt painting Creating bold paintings in salt and paint.
Craft and design	Let's get crafty		
	Focusing on process over product, children develop their cutting, threading, manipulation and joining skills. The unit culminates in designing a flower for a class flower garden.		

	Year 1	Year 2
Drawing	Exploring line and shape	Understanding tone and texture
	Exploring line and shape through a range of materials and stimuli, children develop control and creativity as they investigate the work of artists Bridget Riley and Paul Klee. Inspired by these artists, the children experiment with expressive mark-making and portrait drawing. They learn how lines can vary in appearance and form shapes and begin to recognise shapes within forms to help them draw more accurately.	Developing drawing skills by exploring and experimenting with a range of materials, the children make marks that suggest surface texture and light and dark. They learn how to build a drawing by sketching basic shapes and adding detail, leading to a final observational piece that shows an emerging understanding of shading and texture.
Painting and mixed media	Colour splash	Life in colour
	Exploring colour mixing through paint play, children use a range of tools and work on different surfaces. They create paintings inspired by the artists Clarice Cliff and Jasper Johns.	Taking inspiration from the collage work of artist Romare Bearden, children consolidate their knowledge of colour mixing and create textures in paint using different tools. They make their own painted paper in the style of Bearden and then use it in the creation of a collage.
Sculpture and 3D	Paper play	Clay houses
	Creating simple three-dimensional shapes and structures using familiar materials, children develop their skills in manipulating paper and card. They fold, roll and scrunch materials to make their own sculpture inspired by the 'Tree of life' screen at the Sidi Saiyyed Mosque. Pupils may extend their learning to make a collaborative sculptural piece based on the art of Louise Bourgeois.	Developing their ability to work with clay, children learn how to create simple thumb pots. They explore the work of sculptor Rachel Whiteread and apply her ideas using techniques such as cutting, shaping, joining and impressing into clay.
Craft and design	Woven wonders	Map it out
	Learning fibre art skills such as plaiting, threading, knotting and weaving to create three-dimensional woven artworks inspired by artist Cecilia Vicuña. Children will develop skills such as measuring, choosing materials, and resilience in artistic creation.	Responding to a design brief, children create a piece of art that represents their local area using a map as their stimulus. Their ideas are developed through the creative techniques of stained glass style, basic printing, and either felt making or creating art in relief.

	Year 3	Year 4
Drawing	Developing drawing skills Developing drawing skills through observation, shape and tone, the children practise drawing objects using simple shapes, building even tones with pencil and adding detail by closely observing pattern and texture. They apply these skills in imaginative plant drawings and explore how to recreate their ideas as digital artwork.	Exploring tone, texture and proportion Exploring tone, texture and proportion to create realistic and expressive drawings, the children take inspiration from artists Sarah Graham, Nicola McBride and Beatriz Milhazes. Using sweets, wrappers and bold patterns as stimuli, the children develop skills in shading, mark-making and composition to produce detailed drawings with a strong sense of form and proportion.
Painting and mixed media	Prehistoric painting Exploring prehistoric art, pupils recreate the style of cave artists using charcoal and natural pigments. They experiment with colour mixing, make their own paints and tools and create a large-scale artwork.	Light and dark Developing colour-mixing skills, using shades and tints to show form and create three dimensions when painting. Children learn about composition and plan their own still life to paint, applying their chosen techniques.
Sculpture and 3D	Abstract shape and space Exploring how shapes and negative spaces can be represented by three-dimensional forms. Manipulating a range of materials, children learn ways to join and create free-standing structures inspired by the work of Anthony Caro and Ruth Asawa.	Mega materials Exploring the way different materials can be shaped and joined, pupils learn about techniques used by artists Barbara Hepworth and Sokari Douglas-Camp and create their own sculptures.
Craft and design	Ancient Egyptian scrolls Learning about the way colour, scale and pattern influenced ancient Egyptian art, children explore the technique of papermaking to create a papyrus-style scroll. Children may also extend their learning to create a modern response by designing a 'zine' (a mini-book made from folding a single piece of paper).	Fabric of nature Using the flora and fauna of tropical rainforests as a starting point, children develop drawings through experimentation and textile-based techniques to a design a repeating pattern suitable for fabric.

	Year 5	Year 6
Drawing	Depth, emotion and movement Exploring how drawing can express emotion, movement and depth, the children take inspiration from artists Charlie Mackesy and Elizabeth Catlett. They use expressive lines and marks to convey feeling and energy, develop shading techniques to show depth and form and investigate composition through drawing and printmaking. This leads to a final piece that combines personal ideas with artist influence.	Expressing ideas Exploring how drawing can be used to express ideas and messages, the children take inspiration from a range of street art examples. They investigate how artists use perspective, scale and proportion to create impact, then develop these skills to design and create a street art-inspired final piece about sustainability and the environment.
Painting and mixed media	Portraits Investigating self-portraits by a range of artists, children use photographs of themselves as a starting point for developing their own unique self-portraits in mixed-media. Artists featured: Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Frida Kahlo, Chila Kumari Singh Burman and Njideka Akunyili Crosby.	Artist study Identifying an artist that interests them, children research the life, techniques and artistic intentions of that individual. Collecting ideas in their sketchbooks, planning for a final piece and working collaboratively, they present what they have learnt about the artist.
Sculpture and 3D	Interactive installation Using inspiration of historical monuments and modern installations, pupils plan, research and draw a sculpture to satisfy a design brief. They investigate scale, the display environment and possibilities for viewer interaction.	Making memories Creating a personal memory box, pupils reflect on their time at primary school, representing their memories through art using a range of materials and techniques and develop skills in planning, creating, and evaluating 3D sculptures.
Craft and design	Architecture Investigating the built environment through drawing and printmaking. Pupils learn about the work of architect Zaha Hadid, create their own building designs, present research on the artist Hundertwasser and explore ideas behind the symbolism of monument design.	Photo opportunity Exploring photography as a medium for expressing ideas, children investigate scale and composition, colour, and techniques for adapting finished images. They use digital media to design and create photographic imagery for a specific design brief.