St James' Catholic Primary School

Policy for Art and Design

Reviewed Autumn 2026

Our Vision

In this school Art and Design will be used to enable pupils to develop knowledge, skills and understanding to communicate their thoughts and ideas across the curriculum. All pupils will be taught art, craft and design to engage, inspire and challenge them. Their developing knowledge, skills and understanding will equip them to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design. As pupils become artists and designers, they will be taught to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of art and design. Through cross-curricular work pupils will learn that art and design both reflect and shape our history, and contribute to the culture, creativity and wealth of our nation.

Intent

1. To use the programmes of study of the National Curriculum for art to underpin teaching and learning
2. To enable pupils to produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
3. To help pupils become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques
4. To teach pupils how to evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design
5. To ensure that pupils know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms
6. To enable all children to access a range of high quality art experiences

Implementation

1. Pupils will be taught to use a range of materials creatively to design and make products
2. Children will learn how to use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination
3. Pupils will be taught how to develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space
4. Pupils will be taught to develop their techniques, including their control and their use of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design
5. Pupils will be enabled to create sketch books to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas
6. All children will be encouraged and shown how to improve their mastery of art and

design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials [for example, pencil, charcoal, paint and clay]

7. All will learn about the work of a range of artists, craft makers and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work
8. The Art subject lead will monitor and assess the impact of teaching through book looks, pupil interviews and learning walks

Impact

During their time in this school, children will benefit from a rich broad and balanced programme of Art and Design. They will experience and experiment with a wide range of materials as they explore art and design to grow and flourish as artists and designers. They will build a growing awareness of the art and design which runs through their own history, culture and other cultures as they are introduced to the world of artists and works of art. They will learn about sculptors, designers and architects and they will be taken to galleries, exhibitions and places rich in architectural heritage to broaden their horizons and to appreciate great works of art. Pupils will be inspired by artists visiting, such as a coastal landscape artist in Year 5.

Review Date February 2026