

CURRICULUM SUBJECT OVERVIEW – ART & DESIGN



“Go and make interesting mistakes, make amazing mistakes, make glorious and fantastic mistakes. Break rules. Leave the world more interesting for your being here. Make good art.” - Neil Gaiman

‘Through Faith, Friendship and Fun we Learn and Grow’

We believe that art is a powerful way for children to express themselves, explore their creativity, and develop a deeper appreciation for the beauty of the world around them.

Faith inspires pupils to see art as a reflection of wonder and creation, encouraging them to engage with ideas, emotions, and stories through their artwork. Friendship fosters collaboration, as pupils share ideas, support one another, and celebrate the unique talents within our school community. Fun ensures that our art lessons are filled with excitement, experimentation, and joy as pupils explore diverse techniques, materials, and cultures. Through these values, we nurture confident, imaginative, and reflective young artists who value creativity, individuality, and the process of growth.

Our art curriculum equips pupils to express their thoughts and feelings, appreciate the artistry in everyday life, and approach the future with curiosity and a passion for innovation.

Spirituality

In Art and Design, spirituality is about discovering and exploring the deep connections between creativity, self-expression, and the world around us. We encourage children to pause and reflect on the beauty and meaning found in art, from the patterns of nature to the creations of diverse cultures, and to consider how these connect to their own experiences and emotions.

Spirituality in art invites pupils to explore the unseen—the emotions, ideas, and stories that shape artistic expression—while fostering an appreciation for the visible, tangible forms that art takes. Through moments of stillness and contemplation, children are inspired to consider how their creative work reflects their inner thoughts and how it connects to broader themes of life, community, and culture. This reflective process helps children see art not only as a way of making but also as a way of being—an opportunity to explore their identity, understand their place in the world, and engage with something greater than themselves. Through this, we nurture a sense of wonder, purpose, and connection that enriches their creative journey and their personal growth.

Intent	Implementation	Impact
Our intention at Defford for Art and Design is to develop a lifelong interest and understanding of Art in all young people. We offer a structure and sequence of lessons to help teachers ensure they have covered the skills required to meet the aims of the national curriculum. The intent is to ensure all pupils produce creative, imaginative work. Children can explore their ideas and record their experiences, as well as exploring the work of others and evaluate different creative ideas. Children will become confident and proficient in a variety of techniques including drawing, painting and sculpting, as well as other selected craft skills, collage, printing and patterns. Children will also develop their knowledge of famous artists, designers and craft makers. Children will also develop their interest and curiosity about art and design through a series of lessons offering skills progression, knowledge progression and offering children the opportunity to ask questions and demonstrate their skills in a variety of ways. The lessons will offer the chance for children to develop their emotional expression through art to further enhance their personal, social and emotional development.	Each key stage focuses on different themes to ensure continued interest in the subject as well as acquiring new knowledge. The lessons we have suggested 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. Our units are based on the Access Art Mixed Age Curriculum. These are completed every other half term. When classes are on the 'off' half term, they will still engage in weekly drawing skills exercises. Children should also know how art and design both reflect and shape our history, and contribute to the culture, creativity and wealth of our nation. We will ensure children can practise skills and be creative using sketchbooks.	Art and design learning is loved by teachers and pupils across school. Children improve their enquiry skills and inquisitiveness about the world around them, and their impact through art and design on the world. Children will become more confident in analysing their work and giving their opinion on their own and other works of art. Children show knowledge of artists and techniques at age-appropriate levels. All children in school can speak confidently about their art and design work and their skills.

Year A

Class	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Birch	Spirals	Simple printmaking	Making birds
<i>Reason</i>	<i>This unit introduces pupils to foundational drawing and mark-making techniques, allowing them to develop control, rhythm, and confidence in creating patterns. Spirals are a universal design that provides an accessible yet engaging entry point to art.</i>	<i>Printmaking builds on pupils' drawing skills by introducing them to a new medium that emphasizes repetition, precision, and design. It encourages experimentation with texture and composition.</i>	<i>This unit encourages observation and creativity as pupils explore form, texture, and structure while crafting bird sculptures or designs inspired by nature.</i>
Oak	Storytelling through Drawing	Exploring Pattern	Festival Feasts
<i>Reason</i>	<i>This unit emphasizes visual storytelling, helping pupils explore how images can communicate ideas, emotions, and narratives. It builds on drawing and composition skills.</i>	<i>This unit develops pupils' understanding of pattern and repetition, encouraging them to experiment with symmetry, rhythm, and decorative design.</i>	<i>This unit combines art, culture, and celebration, encouraging pupils to create festive works inspired by shared traditions and community. It emphasizes collaboration and creativity.</i>
Ash	Typography and Maps	Making Monotypes	Set Design
<i>Reason</i>	<i>This unit introduces pupils to the world of typography and maps, building skills in visual communication and spatial awareness. Typography helps students engage with design and storytelling through letterforms, while maps introduce the concept of visual representation of data. This sets a foundational understanding of how text and visuals can come together to convey meaning.</i>	<i>The monotype technique introduces pupils to printmaking. It encourages experimentation and discovery in creating texture and layering through printmaking, developing their understanding of transferring images and marks.</i>	<i>Set design links to the exploration of creating spaces and environments that tell a story, enabling students to think creatively about the design of physical spaces. It enhances their ability to plan and think spatially.</i>

Year B

Class	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Birch	Explore and Draw	Expressive Painting	Be an Architect
<i>Reason</i>	<i>This unit develops close observational drawing skills, encouraging pupils to look carefully at the world and represent it with detail and intention.</i>	<i>This unit focuses on using colour, brushstrokes, and composition to convey emotion and mood, expanding pupils' expressive capabilities.</i>	<i>This unit introduces pupils to 3D design and spatial thinking, encouraging them to consider structure, balance, and functionality in their creations.</i>
Oak	Gesture Drawing with Charcoal	Cloth, Thread, Paint	Telling Stories through Drawing and Making
<i>Reason</i>	<i>This unit introduces pupils to expressive mark-making using charcoal, encouraging them to explore movement, texture, and gesture in their artwork. It helps develop confidence in experimenting with a bold and dynamic medium.</i>	<i>This unit introduces pupils to mixed-media art, emphasizing texture, layering, and the tactile quality of materials. It encourages experimentation and creativity while building fine motor skills.</i>	<i>This unit explores narrative and communication through art, encouraging pupils to combine drawing with 3D elements to create story-rich works. It enhances storytelling and imaginative thinking.</i>
Ash	2D Drawing to 3D Making	Activism	Take a Seat
<i>Reason</i>	<i>This unit focuses on developing the ability to translate two-dimensional drawings into three-dimensional forms. It fosters a deeper understanding of shape, space, and volume. It enables students to engage in design from a functional and spatial perspective.</i>	<i>Activism through art challenges students to consider the role of art in societal change. It encourages pupils to use their creative abilities to explore social issues and create artwork with a message.</i>	<i>The "Take a Seat" unit combines design and function. Students will create seating solutions, focusing on both form and usability. This unit introduces the concept of functional design.</i>

Willow class will learn their art curriculum through the EYFS Areas of Learning: Physical Development, Expressive Art and Design. Please refer to the EYFS Curriculum Plans.