



Fairchildes Primary School

Creative Arts Policy

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Edited By:	Sally Gardner (Creative Arts Subject Lead) and Mark Gyford (SLT)
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Introduction

At Fairchildes we define the arts as music, dance, drama, art and film. The arts are a fundamental part of the ethos of Fairchildes, with performance being a rich part of the school's culture. We give our pupils the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of arts opportunities. The arts are built into the weekly curriculum for all children and we are continually striving for excellence and innovation in our offer. The provision of the creative arts within school is not simply a vehicle for wider growth opportunities, but also for sensory experiences and a foundation for a lifelong source of well-being and enjoyment. Additionally, the arts offer insight into other people's values and beliefs, allowing the individual to understand and express opinions about their world.

Aims and Objectives

As a school we seek to use the arts as a vehicle for our children to have high aspirations, to see themselves as creators of the arts and to be exposed to opportunities which widen their horizons.

- We want our arts to be authentic, for the children to see a purpose in their learning with lessons being exciting, inspiring and engaging.
- We aim to ensure that through experiencing the arts, children develop their creativity, self-esteem and confidence.

- At Fairchildes, our aim is to provide an arts curriculum that will enable every child to reach their full potential creatively. This is achieved through investigating and making, performing, developing and evaluating their own skills.
- To offer all children, whilst encompassing their own heritage and cultural origins and considering factors of gender and of physical and mental ability, the opportunity to experience all of the arts in their education.
- In art we aim to provide a diverse range of experiences by exposing the children to a variety of art from different cultures, eras and elements.
- In music, we aim to develop social skills when making music together and to develop children's skills, knowledge and understanding in performing, composing, listening and appraising.

Teaching and Learning

The teaching and learning within the arts in our school is exciting and varied. Adults leading lessons are encouraged to develop ideas and allow the children to show their individuality and creativity.

The schemes of work for Art and Music at Fairchildes are based upon the National Curriculum. Some learning takes place that is explicit to visual art and design, where the context is purely arts-based learning. At other times, learning will be built around meaningful cross curricular activities that enhance learning across subjects.

Our music curriculum uses Charanga music world and Sparkyard digital platforms alongside a range of peripatetic learning. Our EYFS plan their musical learning through their integrated topics. A range of other musical opportunities are also offered through our wide range of diverse performances.

Dance lessons are incorporated through our Physical Education curriculum. Further opportunities for development are provided with weekly additional Street Dance sessions afterschool.

Assessment

The approach to assessment, record keeping and reporting of this subject area follows the whole school policy guidelines.

Feedback from adults and peers is verbal within lessons to encourage confidence in self-expression. It is 'in the moment' and relevant to the children. Children record their work in Art in sketchbooks or in individual or collective pieces for display. Musical learning is practically based and teachers are all required to contribute to a portfolio of musical clips stored digitally. Reports to parents are completed annually. Teachers also discuss individuals progress and this is tracked on our Foundation Assessment document.

Inclusion

As teachers we must be aware of, and respond to, pupils' diverse learning needs, including those with English as an additional language, those with learning difficulties,

and the more able pupils. Teachers will identify more able, and those with SEND and also those with English as an additional language and ensure they are supported and challenged.

All children will have access to the arts, therefore work and activities will be adapted accordingly to ensure that children of all abilities participate to their full potential. Consideration will be given to resources used to ensure they are accessible for all. When planning visits, physical abilities will always be considered, as well as the sensory needs of individuals.

Any materials used should present other cultures, countries and peoples in a balanced and positive way. Children should be taught to appreciate these commonalities and differences in people and cultures around the world. The arts should be seen as a vehicle to celebrate difference in our school community. This includes the study of a range of diverse artists, such as Alison Lapper and Jacob Lawrence. Our art curriculum also evolves to include relevant whole school projects, such as studying the climate emergency. This means our arts curriculum is ready to reflect the needs of our 21st century learners in an authentic way.

Other Subject Relevant Areas

Art can also be seen as a pathway to a greater experience of Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development. Through various activities we feel that the Arts can develop children's aesthetic appreciation. Additionally, through visual learning and performance the Arts can evoke feelings of 'awe' and 'wonder'. Art is also a space that gives children the chance to reflect on nature, their environment and surroundings. The children's well-being is at the heart of Fairchildes' ethos and it is our aim that the arts only enhance this further.

Health and Safety

Teachers will always ensure the safe use of all tools and equipment and insist on good practice in all areas of the arts. It is imperative that adult supervision and guidance is provided when children are using specialist arts equipment e.g. glue guns, stage lighting etc. To ensure the safety of all pupils, the school keeps a comprehensive record of allergies, which is updated every academic year and available to all staff.