

Creative Arts Policy



Document Purpose

This policy reflects the values and philosophy in relation to the teaching and learning of creative arts across the curriculum. It gives a framework within which all staff work and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment.

Philosophy

We believe that every child is artistic and that developing artistic, creative and cultural awareness is the right of every child. The Arts are important because it helps define and enrich the quality of all human life. It allows us to understand and experience the diversity and commonality of humanity (*Art becomes the 4th R, Ohler 2000*), particularly relevant in our multicultural community. We realise that exposure to the arts when young, the chance to participate in a range of experiences (making use of preferred learning styles (visual, physical and oral/aural)), allows us to develop the capacity for flexible and innovative thought, to formulate and communicate ideas and feelings and to perfect physical and perceptual skills. The development of Creativity and creative learning is also vital for the challenges of the 21st world. (Robinson, 1999) Good arts education develops intangible qualities of enthusiasm, passion, inspiration and ambition, which have a positive effect on achievements in other subjects, and more importantly, the continual learning experiences through a child's life. The children's worldview of the arts reflects the experiences offered to them by the adult (*Creative Endeavours, Bloomfield 1998*) and to this effect, our policy intends to offer experiences, which will widen and stimulate the children's worldview.

Audience

This policy document, having been presented to and agreed upon by the whole staff and the governing body, is distributed to all individual members of the teaching staff and school governors. Such distribution ensures the accessibility of the document to visiting teachers, for example, outreach/support staff and parents.

Aims

Creative arts can be taught through a range of both foundation and core subjects within the National Curriculum. This can be done explicitly through subjects such as art, music, dance, drama, design technology or used as a means of making less obviously related subjects more accessible and appealing and accessing children's differing learning styles. All subjects can be taught using creative arts.

The aims of teaching the creative arts are consistent with our school's philosophy of providing stimulating and challenging opportunities for all children. The aims of are:

- To maintain and develop a focus on arts in our school – to promote our ethos through teaching and learning using and in the arts.
- To ensure children have a knowledge of great artists, craft-makers and designers and understand the historical cultural development of their art-forms.
- To provide a curriculum which is broad and balanced and acknowledges the cultural diversity of the school.
- To encourage children to enjoy artistic and creative learning activities and to provide them with the skills and confidence to participate in them with personal satisfaction.
- To provide children with a means to express ideas and feelings through a range of media.
- To assist each child to develop a positive self image and self confidence
- To develop a sensitive and analytical response to children's own and other artists work within a range of mediums.
- To provide a curriculum which progressively develops creative and artistic skills, concepts and knowledge and which promotes their value both within the school and in society.
- To develop insight through the arts into areas of human experience, some of which cannot easily be verbalised
- To promote positive attitudes towards, and enthusiasm for, creative art work in school and outside of the school.
- To develop social skills and awareness whilst taking part in creative activities.
- To 'create' both original works and pieces based on others' work, and develop a culture of positive appraisal.
- To appreciate that children develop at different rates and those activities are differentiated to allow for this.

- To engender activities that appeal to the range of learning styles, auditory, visual and kinaesthetic.
- To promote links with industry to promote skills associated with creative arts for places of work.

Objectives

Children at Ranelagh Primary School follow the National Curriculum for all subjects at levels appropriate to their ability.

In the teaching and learning of the Arts we can identify a number of objectives. The children will have the opportunity to:

- Develop skills across all of the arts subjects and use other subjects as a stimulus for creative and artistic endeavours.
- Explore, express and develop ideas.
- Record from experience, observation and imagination.
- Design, make, rehearse, perform, appraise and evaluate.
- Evaluate and develop work with knowledge and understanding.
- Experience different mediums of the arts, in the locality, from past and present, and of different cultures and talk about them describing, explaining and expressing opinions.
- To visit galleries and other 'Art' venues annually.
- To know about great artists and their cultural backgrounds.
- To work with artists as appropriate.
- To develop sustainable relationships with a range of arts providers including local individuals as well as larger organisations (Festival of Voices, Choirs, local leaders and artists)
- To ensure all staff have a thorough understanding of arts pedagogies through committed programme of Continued Professional Development and use of external providers to enhance learning/teaching.

In addition to these experiences extracurricular clubs may be offered to enhance the Arts Curriculum.

Curriculum and School Organisation

In order to achieve the aims outlined previously, the teaching of creative arts at Ranelagh School is approached in a flexible way throughout the school, within each Key Stage and Year Group. Teaching will be of a cross curricular nature particularly during festival times when whole school productions are being undertaken. This is a particular emphasis on developing schemes of work, which are more relevant to the children, located in our cultural setting and celebrating and drawing on the rich diversity. Most of the teaching will be specifically planned to develop certain artistic skills, concepts, knowledge or attitudes or to access subjects through the use of those skills.

Subject planning and evaluation of work is usually incorporated into year group planning and evaluation each term. This is seen in teachers' initial and long term plans. Planning and evaluation of work is undertaken on a weekly basis by the class teacher and can be seen in the short-term plans. The co-ordinator will be

available to assist with planning and offer advice. The Arts team work together on evaluating cross curricula themes and planning large whole school events.

Class Organisation and Teaching Style

Class teachers are responsible for their own class organisation in relation to the arts whilst at the same time ensuring this complements and reflects the overall aims and philosophy of the school.

Within any one class, children are given the opportunity to work as a class, individuals and as part of a group. The learning task or activity and the resources being used will determine the choice of class organisation.

The arts are seen as having particular links to work in most curriculum areas. We believe that the Arts are integrated and that ideas in one area generate ideas in another.

Assessment and Reporting

See policy on Assessment.

Co-ordinator Role

The Coordinator will ensure that planning, organisation and teaching/learning of the arts is consistent throughout the school. Representatives from the school council will be invited to attend some planning meetings of large events (e.g. The Newham Art Exhibit and TTLT exhibition across the trust schools).