



“Show me your way, Lord teach me your paths.” Psalms (25.4)

ALMONDSBURY CHURCH OF ENGLAND VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ARTS POLICY

Rationale

The Creative Arts stimulate creativity, individuality and imagination; providing opportunities to develop spiritual awareness, self-esteem and promote positive social and emotional wellbeing.

We are committed to the provision of the Creative Arts through core and foundation subjects within the National Curriculum.

We are committed to the promotion and provision of the Arts through the core and foundation subjects of the National Curriculum and also through the provision of extra curricular activities, recognising the role the Arts curriculum plays in providing opportunities for children to experience creativity in order to enhance, benefit and improve their learning. We place high importance on children’s enjoyment and self esteem, as well as valuing diverse talents. We believe that Art is a key vehicle for expressing individuality and developing confidence.

Aims

We aim to provide ongoing opportunities across Key Stages 1 and 2 to enable children to develop in all Arts subjects:

- Performing Arts – dance, drama, singing, music making and composition.
- Visual Arts – 2D and 3D craft and design – painting, drawing, collage, modelling, sculpture, printmaking and textiles.
- Literature – story telling, performance poetry, playscript writing and song writing.
- Media and Multi Media – photography, video, digital arts, music technology and graphic design.
- Art appreciation – celebrate a diverse range of work by artists, musicians and performers from the past and present and around the world.
- Opportunities to celebrate and reflect on our own achievements; for example in Collective Worship.

To raise and enhance the confidence and self-esteem of the children through involvement in the Arts.

- To develop a coherent Arts programme that enriches the children's understanding of how the Arts can be appreciated and expressed in a variety of forms.
- To provide a rich, stimulating and wide range of arts activities through the curriculum and assemblies, including collective worship, and through a programme of extra curriculum activities,
- To raise awareness of the richness and diversity of the arts over time and across cultures.
- To enable children to feel confident to accept challenges and be adventurous in their development and pursuit of the arts.
- To provide opportunities to celebrate the children's achievements in the Arts.
- To provide opportunities for personalised learning through the Arts.
- To develop individual skills and techniques.
- To provide opportunities to learn alongside professionals in the Arts.

Guidelines

- Children will be encouraged to collaborate and co-operate.
- Learning will take place individually, in pairs, in groups of different sizes, as a whole class and occasionally as a whole school.
- Opportunities will be found to learn with other schools.
- Lessons will be effectively planned for skills development, to fulfil the National Curriculum statutory requirements. Schemes of work such as Music Express will be used to enhance provision.
- Resources will be up to date, accessible and well researched.
- Children of all abilities in the Arts will be offered a range of opportunities to enable them to reach their potential.
- Wherever possible cross curricular themes will be found to link the Arts with other subjects.

The Curriculum

Our school ethos and curriculum reflects the importance we place on the arts:

- Art lessons are planned to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum from Foundation Stage through to Year 6.

- Physical Education is allocated two hours per week, meaning creative dance occurs every other half term.
- Drama is a key element of our English and literacy programme and is used as a powerful, creative teaching tool across the curriculum. In the Foundation Stage and KS1, drama occurs more frequently in role play activities.
- Curriculum Music is allocated an hour a week for all children and is taught by a specialist music teacher and reinforced through additional activities in class.
- All children take part in our annual Christmas performances, Year 5 and 6 lead the summer productions.
- All children in KS2 have the opportunity to learn an instrument and perform in the Instrumental Concert to their parents
- A number of events take place throughout the year.
- Arts week is organized every other year by the Creative Arts Team.

Planning, Assessment, Progression and Evaluation

The school's Creative Arts Team will take overall responsibility for ensuring effective planning and consistency of approach by teachers in accordance with the National Primary Strategy.

- Our school's Creative Curriculum Map provides a long term overview of topics for each curriculum area from Foundation Stage to Year 6 and are based on the National Curriculum Programmes of Study and the ELG in EYFS.
- Medium term planning will be carried out by individual teachers who liaise with other teachers in their phase group, i.e. Foundation Stage, Years 1 & 2, Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6. This will be guided by the National Curriculum as well as our own curriculum development. Medium term planning will show the objectives to be covered from each of the Arts subjects.
- Short term planning is carried out by individual teachers within guidelines set at the medium term planning stage. Planning at this stage will clearly show objectives, how the objectives will be taught and in which subjects (if cross curricular linked), differentiation, evidence of classroom organisation, use of additional adults and evaluation/progress notes to inform future planning.
- All plans are stored on the school network so monitoring can be carried out by the Head teacher and Creative Arts Team
- Arts subjects are planned in to enrich topic work as well as develop specific skills.
- Individual subject leaders monitor termly plans. Progression across the year groups and resource needs are then identified. Issues that may indicate needs for further development may be placed in the School Development Plan.
- Learning outcomes are structured and matched appropriately for each lesson. Assessment is measured against the criteria set for the learning outcome, which is made clear to the children in each lesson.
- Specific Portfolios are kept by the Subject Leaders and examples of children's work, through using: Photographs, digital recordings, videos, questionnaires

- Lessons and children's work are evaluated by staff, and on-going teacher assessments are made in order to inform future planning and report back to parents. Peer assessment in line with AFL also takes place. Children's progress is monitored on a rolling programme.
- Children's progress in the arts is presented to parents at parents evenings and in the annual report. Children learning musical instruments are given progress reports on an annual basis.
- The Creative Arts Team devise an **action plan** to ensure efficient coverage, delivery and support of the creative arts for arts enrichment, such as specific arts weeks and provision from visiting professionals.
- Our bi-annual Arts Festivals and other Creative Days are planned as a whole staff, including support staff. All events are evaluated afterwards through staff discussion and pupil conferencing.
- The school governors also monitor activities in the arts strategically. The Creative Arts Governor meets with the Creative Arts Team each term and prepares a report to feedback to the full governing body.

Inclusion

We will provide arts opportunities to all our children, regardless of gender, race, disability or ability to pay (in the case of external visits and visitors). The arts may be used to develop children's learning in any area of the curriculum, particularly for those with Special Needs, including Gifted and Talented children.

WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

Arts week

We are committed to providing an annual arts week involving all children. The week enables children from all year groups to work collaboratively together inspired by a thematic stimulus. We invite an artist in residence to spend the week with us.

Arts Festival

This is an opportunity for children to individually show-case their talents in either: drama, dance, singing or performing on a musical instrument. The Performing Arts Cup is awarded on an annual basis.

Christmas Entertainment

An informal opportunity for children to perform together as a whole class or in groups representing their class.

Charity Days

We aim to support Children in Need, Jeans for Genes Day and Comic Relief on an annual basis. As well as raising money, we make the day fun-filled with a whole school singing, dressing up and art activities

Easter Challenge

Children are given themes to design and make pieces of art at home. These are then put on display and the whole school spends an afternoon walking around the exhibits.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

We offer a range of arts clubs that can be accessed by children. School staff provide a number of after-school clubs and activities for children; for example choir, drama club, art clubs, dance club. Children are also signposted to a number of arts events that run out of school.

PARTNERSHIPS:

The Wider Community

We aim to take every opportunity to involve both local and National wider communities; for example St Mary's Church, local secondary schools, parents, visiting professionals and performers and peripatetic music teachers.

We are committed to sustained partnerships with local arts education organisations. Partnerships include Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, South Gloucestershire Music Service, Horizon Music Productions, Inspire Arts Trust. Marlwood and Castle secondary schools. Year 6 visit the Musee d'Orsay in Paris as part of their residential week away.

We also participate in local arts projects and competitions such as Thornbury Eisteddfod, Festival, Almondsbury Art Festival, National Poetry Writer's Competition and others as they arise. We are committed to providing a range of enrichment activities for our children and visiting artists and arts-based off site visits happen on a regular basis with Old Vic Theatre, Firehorse Productions, Inspire, Bristol Art Gallery, vocal coaches, Gamalan band and Samba band.

We value the contribution that can be made by partnership with parents and actively invite parents to support and participate in our learning. Parents are invited to share their talents, religion and cultural backgrounds. They are invited to share our arts events. We have a community choir, who perform with the school choir and also community singing and music-making events.

Facilities

At Almondsbury School we have a number of facilities used to support the arts:

- The school hall is used specifically for dance, drama, music and productions.
- There is a performing arts area in the KS2 playground, which KS1 are able to use during lunchtimes. This is equipped with a CD player. KS1 have a less formal performing space with 'microphones'
- There is a wildlife and conservation area, which we regard as an extra classroom and it used for nature drawings
- Foundation Stage and KS1 have external spaces for role-play
- The Gazebo
- There are staging, sheltered spaces and story-telling areas in the grounds which are used by KS1 and KS2 children during breaks and lunch times. plan for staging and story telling areas when the new build has been completed. This will also include an area for singing and dancing.

Resources

The Creative Arts resources (musical instruments and art materials) are regularly audited and updated to ensure the children continue to have a full and rich experience of the Creative Arts.

Staff are keen advocates of the arts and many engage in dance, singing and performing as a means of relaxation and well-being in their own time. This enthusiasm and skills learnt are passed on to the children they teach. We are lucky to have some talented parents. Many regularly support the children in their arts learning. The school is well-resourced for musical instruments. These are stored permanently and also on more portable trolleys. Foundation Stage classrooms have boxes of instruments and a 'Sound

Wall'. Art resources are stored for easy access by staff and children. There is a good quality sound system in the school hall, plus various music and art software. We installed on the network. We also have some record decks that children are taught DJing techniques. Children use a variety of electronic devices.

Needs are audited on an annual basis by subject leaders.

Policy approved by governors on.....

Signed.....(Chair of governors)