



IGNITE INNOVATE INSPIRE

Policy for Art and Design September 2024

“Art is not just a subject to learn, but an activity that you can practise with your hands, your eyes and your whole personality.” *Quentin Blake, Children’s Laureate*

Curriculum Vision: Why we teach this Art and Design curriculum

At Monkhouse, we believe all children will be ambitious, courageous, resilient, respectful and kind so that they fulfil their unique potential and become active members of the wider global community. We offer a creative curriculum where children are challenged to think creatively, innovate and imagine. Our Art and Design teaching is inspiring and teaches children the practical skills they need to become artists who can communicate their ideas. We value each child as an individual and ask them to use Art and Design to share their own unique understanding of the world and appreciate the art that is all around them. Through the creative process, we challenge children’s communication skills by asking them to evaluate their work, collaborate effectively and discuss and trial methods to make improvements.

What we teach in our Art and Design curriculum

At Monkhouse, we provide a broad, balanced, and progressive Art and Design curriculum, which is integrated into other areas of learning where appropriate. Our curriculum follows a spiral structure, allowing children to revisit key concepts and skills at various points in their education. This approach deepens their understanding, reinforces prior learning, and builds confidence in applying their knowledge in new and creative ways.

Our aim is to ignite a passion for learning and to explore Art in its many forms, inspiring creativity and curiosity. We hope to encourage children to see beyond the art that has been shared with them, and to give them the skills and confidence to innovate and add meaning to their learning through Art and Design.

Throughout the curriculum, there are numerous opportunities for children to reflect on their artistic and creative skills. During each project, children are encouraged to self-assess their work to ensure they are creating their best possible artwork. This reflective practice helps children consider both their own work and the work of others, fostering a deeper understanding of how they can improve.

Our Art and Design curriculum also emphasises the development of ‘an appreciation of the arts’ impact.’ This guiding principle is embedded in every lesson, with planned opportunities to explore the different forms of art and the effect they can have on both individuals and society. By revisiting key themes and techniques through the spiral approach, children become more aware of how art impacts them personally and learn to link their artistic knowledge with their broader learning experiences.

How we teach our Art and Design curriculum

In the Early Years Foundation Stage educators will prepare children for the primary art curriculum through practical explorations of a variety of media and materials. Educators will offer a wide range of provocations which inspire children to observe, investigate and make their own creative works of art, both indoors and outside. Children will work with a range of media and materials including paint, printing, collage, malleable materials, and natural materials. The focus is on the exploration and processes of art as well as on the development of early skills in using media and materials. However, in early years, art does not always lead to a specific outcome, but may be more about the processes involved.

Assessment

We use a SOLO approach to assess key skills and knowledge across a unit and this helps identify children who require more support or have a greater depth of understanding. At least twice in a unit of work or across a half term, practical evidence demonstrating Art and Design skills and knowledge should be uploaded to the appropriate year group seesaw folder.

Participation - Community School, Local, regional, national and global

At Monkhouse, we recognise the importance of community links to both the pupils, parents and the wider community. We hope to inspire the children to get involved and be creative in art projects and the opportunities they can bring for a shared passion and appreciation of art. We do this by providing opportunities to work with local and national artists, showcasing the children's artwork at a range of events as well as creating our own galleries. We have been proud to take part in the St Oswalds Charity Trails for both the Snowdog and the Elmer trail, involving the children in the designing process as well as decorating the statues which were displayed in the local community. At Monkhouse, we work closely alongside the local Culture Bridge who support the school to build and maintain relationships with artists and share opportunities. We are also a proud Gold ArtsMark School.

Extra Curricular

At Monkhouse, we offer extra curricular activities to support and enrich learning in school. Over the course of the year, we offer opportunities for children to work collaboratively on Art and Design projects both in school and with our wider collaborative group of schools. Some of these opportunities involve a range of different art clubs for a range of different year groups.

Impact

Our children find Art and Design enjoyable. They become creative learners, who have knowledge about the artists and designers of the world. Creativity and individuality is valued and children are given the freedom to explore using their imaginations. Children develop the key skills needed to allow them to produce inventive, confident, creative pieces of art. They appreciate Art and Design and make critical judgments based on cultural values, cultural history, aesthetics, quality, craftsmanship and fitness for purpose. Our children think and act as artists, makers and designers. Termly formative assessment is completed to ensure all children make progress in line with their individual abilities. Headlines and areas for targeted improvement are shared with staff and monitored by the Art and Design lead for impact throughout the year to ensure all pupils are successful.