



Art Curriculum



Intent: At St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, we aim to deliver a high-quality art and design curriculum that inspires creativity, nurtures imagination and allows all pupils to express themselves with confidence.

Rooted in our Catholic ethos, we recognise art as a powerful way for children to reflect on the beauty of God's creation and to express their thoughts, emotions and experiences. We aim to develop pupils who are not only skilled artists but also reflective and appreciative learners.

Our curriculum ensures that all pupils:

- Produce creative, imaginative and purposeful work
- Develop confidence and independence across a range of artistic techniques
- Explore and record their own ideas, experiences and emotions
- Study and evaluate a diverse range of artists, designers and architects from different cultures and historical periods
- Build resilience, understanding that the artistic process involves experimentation and refinement
- Use subject-specific vocabulary to articulate their ideas and evaluate their work

Through carefully sequenced learning, children develop both skills and knowledge progression, enabling them to experiment, invent and create their own works of art. We aim for our art curriculum to engage, inspire and challenge, while fostering curiosity and a lifelong appreciation of creativity.

Implementation: At St Swithun's, our art curriculum is structured through a progressive long-term plan based on the Kapow scheme, which we adapt where possible to create more locally-relevant and inspired outcomes, ensuring clear development of skills and knowledge across all year groups.

Our curriculum is organised into four key strands:

Drawing

Painting and mixed media

Sculpture and 3D

Craft and design

Each strand is revisited and built upon across the school, enabling pupils to deepen their understanding and refine their techniques over time.

Key features of our implementation include:

- A Progressive Curriculum Design
- Carefully sequenced units which build disciplinary knowledge and practical skills
- Children revisiting and developing techniques (e.g. sketching, colour mixing, sculpting) with increasing complexity
- Clear sequence of learning which follow the: explore → develop skills → create → evaluate approach
- Children are inspired by local and wider-world artists and artistic movements, leading to their own final outcomes
- Creative and purposeful outcomes, showcasing children's understanding
- Meaningful links across topics (e.g. Mayan art, Ancient Egyptian scrolls, prehistoric painting)



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Our teaching approach in art includes:

- Strong use of modelling (I do – We do – You do) to explicitly teach techniques
- Use of visualisers and step-by-step demonstrations to scaffold learning
- Opportunities for independent and collaborative work, building resilience and ownership
- Explicit teaching of subject-specific vocabulary (e.g. tone, texture, composition)
- Use of sentence stems and discussion to support artistic evaluation and critique
- Children are encouraged to articulate their ideas and justify choices

Adaptation and Inclusion:

- Scaffolded prompts and sequenced steps for artistic processes
- Word banks and sentence stems to support evaluation
- Fine motor adaptations (e.g. different tools, materials, digital options)
- Use of peer support and expert learners to model techniques
- Retrieval practice to embed key knowledge and skills

Catholic Social Teaching in Art

- At St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, our art curriculum is enriched through the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Through art, pupils explore and celebrate the dignity of every person, recognising that each individual is uniquely created in the image of God. Children are encouraged to express their identity, emotions and experiences creatively, valuing both their own work and the work of others. Opportunities to study diverse artists and cultures promote respect, solidarity and an appreciation of the wider world. Art also provides a platform for reflecting on stewardship, as pupils explore themes linked to caring for creation and the environment. Through collaboration, shared critique and celebration of creativity, pupils learn to support one another and contribute positively to their community, using their God-given talents for the common good.

Impact: by the time pupils leave St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, they will:

- Be confident, independent and resilient artists
- Demonstrate a secure understanding of key artistic skills and techniques
- Be able to evaluate and reflect on their work, using appropriate vocabulary
- Show an appreciation of how art reflects and shapes history, culture and society
- Understand the value of creativity for personal expression and wellbeing
- Take pride in their work and recognise their own creative journey

Children leave us with a love of art and design, equipped with the skills and confidence to continue expressing themselves creatively in the future.

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up."

Pablo Picasso