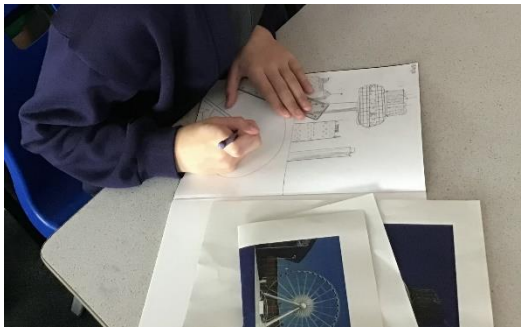
Leamington Community Primary School

Together we make a Difference

The Arts Policy







Courage Determination Friendship Honesty Respect

Rationale

At Leamington Community Primary School, we believe that the arts play a vital role in developing children's creativity, confidence, curiosity and self-expression. We aim to provide a happy, secure, inclusive and stimulating environment in which every child is valued and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

Arts and culture are an important part of school life. Through high-quality teaching, creative experiences, enrichment opportunities and partnerships with arts organisations, we aim to ensure that every child has opportunities to create, explore, perform, respond and be inspired.

We are currently working towards achieving Artsmark, reflecting our ongoing commitment to developing and celebrating high-quality arts and cultural education across the school. Our Artsmark journey supports us in building upon our existing provision, developing new partnerships and ensuring that children have an active voice in shaping arts opportunities within our school.

Our aims are:

- To promote effective learning through high-quality teaching, with creativity, arts and culture embedded across school life where appropriate.
- To provide a safe, stimulating and inclusive environment in which all children can participate in and enjoy the arts.
- To develop children's knowledge, skills and confidence across a range of art forms.
- To provide opportunities for children to experience high-quality art and culture both within school and in the wider community.
- To use the arts to support children's personal, social and emotional development, including themes such as friendship, wellbeing, inclusion and anti-bullying.
- To provide opportunities for children to express themselves, take creative risks and develop their own artistic identity.
- To provide a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities, ensuring that the arts extend beyond the classroom.
- To develop meaningful partnerships with families, local artists, cultural organisations, secondary schools and the wider community.
- To raise aspirations by introducing children to artists, performers, creative practitioners and possible future opportunities within the creative industries.
- To celebrate children's creativity and achievements through exhibitions, performances, competitions and events.

Art and Design Curriculum

Our Art and Design curriculum is designed to engage, inspire and challenge pupils while equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design.

Children experience a broad range of artistic disciplines throughout their time at Leamington. Our curriculum provides clear progression in knowledge and skills and gives children opportunities to revisit and develop techniques as they move through the school.

Children experience a range of art forms, including:

- Painting
- Printing
- 3D work
- Digital media
- Collage
- Textiles
- Drawing

Artist studies form an important part of our curriculum. Children encounter a diverse range of influential artists, craftspeople and designers from different periods, cultures and backgrounds, including both established historical figures and contemporary artists.

We also recognise the importance of our local cultural identity and aim to introduce children to artists with links to Liverpool and the wider region, including contemporary artists such as Keith Drury.

Where appropriate, we aim to establish links with contemporary and local artists, inviting artists and creative practitioners into school to share their expertise and provide practical workshops for our children.

We make meaningful cross-curricular links where these enhance children's understanding. Drama conventions, narrative immersion, high-quality texts and topics may be used to provide a context for children's artistic work.

Early Years

Children in the Early Years are provided with a wide range of opportunities to explore and respond creatively through art. Children are encouraged to experiment freely with colour, texture, pattern, shape, form and different materials. Particular emphasis is placed on practical and sensory experiences, including drawing, painting, modelling and 3D work.

Through both adult-led and child-initiated experiences, children are encouraged to develop their imagination, fine motor skills, creativity and confidence in expressing their own ideas.

Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1, children are taught to:

- use a range of materials creatively to design and make products;
- use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination;

- develop a range of art and design techniques using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space;
- explore the work of a range of artists, craftspeople and designers;
- discuss similarities and differences between different artistic practices and make links with their own work.

Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2, children continue to develop their techniques, control and use of materials, with increasing opportunities for creativity, experimentation and independent decision-making.

Children are taught to:

- use sketchbooks to record observations, explore ideas and review and revisit their work;
- improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting, sculpture and other techniques using a range of materials;
- develop their ability to evaluate and refine their own work;
- discuss and respond thoughtfully to the work of others;
- learn about significant artists, architects, craftspeople and designers;
- develop an increasingly rich artistic vocabulary with which to discuss their own and others' work.

Assessment in Art

Assessment in Art is ongoing and focuses on the progress children make in their knowledge, skills, creativity and confidence. Teachers use a range of evidence, including sketchbooks, practical work, final pieces, photographs, discussions and observations. We value the creative process as well as the finished piece and encourage children to reflect on their work and consider how their ideas and skills have developed. This reflects the National Curriculum expectation that children progressively develop and apply their knowledge, skills and understanding in Art and Design.

Teachers consider how well children can:

- Explore and develop ideas through experimenting and using sketchbooks.
- Develop artistic skills and techniques using a range of materials and media.
- Learn about and respond to artists, designers and craftspeople, using appropriate artistic vocabulary.
- Create and refine artwork, making thoughtful choices about materials and techniques.
- Reflect on their work, discussing successes, challenges and possible improvements.
- Demonstrate progress over time, building upon skills and knowledge developed in previous year groups.

Arts Enrichment

We believe that children's experience of the arts should extend beyond individual curriculum lessons. We therefore aim to provide a rich programme of enrichment opportunities that enables children to encounter the arts in different settings, work with creative professionals and share and celebrate their own creativity.

Arts Week

Each year, we aim to hold a dedicated Arts Week, during which children use art to explore a meaningful theme. Where appropriate, Arts Week links closely with PSHE and provides opportunities to explore themes such as anti-bullying, wellbeing, friendship, inclusion and celebrating differences.

We aim to work alongside our learning mentors to ensure that themes are relevant to the needs and experiences of our children and provide a meaningful stimulus for their creative work.

Where possible, Arts Week culminates in a large-scale exhibition in our state-of-the-art Arts Centre, where children's work is displayed and celebrated. Parents, carers, governors and members of our school community are invited to share in children's achievements.

Experiencing Art First-Hand

We recognise the importance of giving children opportunities to experience art and culture first-hand.

Throughout their time at Leamington, children have opportunities to visit museums, galleries and cultural venues. These experiences are planned to enhance curriculum learning and allow children to see original works, explore collections and experience cultural spaces for themselves.

For example, Year 2 visit the Museum of Liverpool to view Ben Johnson's *Liverpool Cityscape*, while Year 4 visit the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester to explore the process of weaving as part of their work linked to textile artist Kayla Mattes.

Where appropriate, visits are designed around workshops offered by museums and galleries. At other times, school staff develop bespoke activities to ensure that visits meet the curriculum needs and interests of our children.

We also aim to invite local artists and creative practitioners into school to deliver workshops and practical sessions. These experiences allow children to learn directly from practising artists, encounter different creative approaches and recognise the possibilities offered by careers and further study within the arts.

Partnership with The Bluecoat

We are proud of our ongoing collaboration with The Bluecoat, an art gallery and creative space in Liverpool city centre.

Through this partnership, we run a weekly art club for children in Key Stage 2. Professionals from The Bluecoat, alongside adult volunteers from their Out of the Blue community project, deliver art sessions and workshops inspired by the work of contemporary artists exhibiting at The Bluecoat.

This provides children with opportunities to explore contemporary art, experiment with unfamiliar techniques and materials and learn from people actively involved in Liverpool's creative community.

Our partnership also extends to our families, with opportunities for children to access free family workshops and holiday art clubs. This supports our aim of making high-quality arts and cultural experiences accessible beyond the school day.

Musical Theatre, Dance and Performance

Our commitment to the arts extends beyond the curriculum through opportunities such as Musical Theatre and Dance clubs.

These activities allow children to develop performance skills while building confidence, self-esteem, creativity and self-expression. Performing also encourages children to communicate effectively, persevere, work collaboratively and support others as part of a team.

Our children have taken part in many successful performances, shows and competitions, both within the wider community and in our state-of-the-art Arts Centre.

Performing for an audience provides children with a strong sense of pride, achievement and belonging. These experiences create lasting memories, allow children to celebrate one another's talents and can inspire a lifelong enjoyment of the performing arts.

Partnerships with Secondary Schools

We value our links with local secondary schools and aim to use these partnerships to broaden children's experiences of the arts.

Children may participate in a range of arts-based activities led by specialist staff, providing opportunities to experience different creative disciplines, facilities and approaches.

These experiences can also support transition by helping children to become familiar with secondary school environments and by raising aspirations for continued participation in the arts as they progress to the next stage of their education.

Art Beyond the Classroom

We encourage children to continue exploring their creativity outside school and aim to involve families in children's artistic experiences.

We aim to include at least one art-based project within our homework menu each term, allowing children to develop ideas and create artwork at home.

Children are encouraged to share and celebrate their creations with their peers and the wider school community.

Our Art Hub and Arts Centre

We have invested in specialist facilities that demonstrate the importance we place on arts education.

Our state-of-the-art Art Hub provides a dedicated space in which children can create, experiment and develop their artistic knowledge and skills using a range of materials and techniques.

The Art Hub also provides a valuable space for staff training and continuing professional development (CPD). We aim to use the facility to develop the confidence and expertise of our own staff and, where appropriate, share practice with colleagues from other settings.

Our specialist Arts Centre provides further opportunities for performances, exhibitions, workshops and larger-scale creative experiences. Together, these facilities allow the arts to have a visible and valued presence within our school.

Pupil Voice and Arts Leadership

We believe that children should have a voice in the development of arts provision within the school.

Through pupil leadership opportunities, children are encouraged to contribute ideas for displays, competitions, creative projects, performances and whole-school arts events.

We aim to ensure that pupil voice plays a meaningful role in shaping opportunities and raising the profile of the arts across the school.

Inclusion and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

We believe that the arts are for everyone.

Children with SEND are provided with equitable opportunities to access Art and Design and wider arts experiences. Teaching and resources are adapted where necessary to enable children to participate successfully, develop their individual strengths and experience achievement.

The creative nature of the arts can provide valuable alternative ways for children to communicate, express themselves and demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding.

We aim to identify and remove barriers to participation so that all children can experience the enjoyment, confidence and sense of achievement that engagement with the arts can provide.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility.

All arts activities, educational visits, performances, workshops and work with external practitioners will be undertaken in accordance with the school's safeguarding and child protection procedures and other relevant school policies.

Appropriate safeguarding procedures will be followed when working with visitors, volunteers and external organisations.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Art and Design subject leader will monitor the quality, consistency and impact of Art and Design across the school.

Monitoring may include:

- reviewing children's sketchbooks and artwork to identify progression;
- reviewing curriculum planning and assessment;
- pupil voice and discussions with children about their learning;
- monitoring lessons and learning opportunities;
- reviewing displays, exhibitions and portfolios of work;
- discussions with teaching staff;
- evaluating enrichment activities, partnerships and extra-curricular opportunities;
- reviewing participation to ensure that opportunities are inclusive and accessible;
- identifying areas for further development as part of our ongoing Artsmark journey.

The policy and associated curriculum provision will be reviewed regularly to ensure that our arts offer remains ambitious, inclusive, relevant and responsive to the needs of our children.

Our Commitment

Through our curriculum, Arts Week, Art Hub, Arts Centre, educational visits, visiting artists, creative partnerships, clubs, performances and links with other schools and cultural organisations, we aim to ensure that every child has opportunities to experience, create, perform and celebrate the arts.

We want our children to leave Leamington as confident, curious and creative individuals, with an appreciation of arts and culture and an understanding that creativity belongs to everyone.

This keeps the main principles and curriculum structure of your existing policy—including its emphasis on arts and culture, progression, assessment, enrichment and inclusion—but brings the enrichment provision and terminology up to date. Pasted markdown

One change I'd particularly recommend is using "Arts Policy" rather than simply "Art Policy", because the updated document now clearly covers visual art, dance, musical theatre, performance, cultural experiences and partnerships as part of your wider Artsmark journey.