



Art and Design at Mulbarton Primary School

The national curriculum for art and design aims to ensure that all pupils:

- *Produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences*
- *Become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques.*
- *Evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design.*
- *Know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.*

Intent

At Mulbarton Primary, Art and Design is valued as an integral part of the curriculum and is embedded across a wide range of topics throughout the school. We aim to provide pupils with a safe and nurturing environment where they can explore, take risks, share ideas, and enjoy the creative process. Our vision is to challenge preconceptions of what drawing, painting, or sculpture should be, ensuring that creativity is never stifled. Children are encouraged to experiment, take risks, and innovate, developing as confident, independent artists who can articulate and value their own creative journeys. Our Art curriculum also reflects the school's broader vision of inclusivity, respect, and community. Pupils are encouraged to celebrate diversity and individuality, work collaboratively, and contribute to whole-school projects that showcase creativity and shared achievement. Displays around the school celebrate pupils' artwork, promote pride in their accomplishments, and reinforce our ethos of respect, kindness, and perseverance.

Implementation

The purpose of study and the aims of the national curriculum for art and design (2014) state:

Purpose of study:

Art, craft and design embody some of the highest forms of human creativity. A high-quality art and design education should engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design. As pupils progress, they should be able to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of art and design. They should also know how art and design both reflect and shape our history, and contribute to the culture, creativity and wealth of our nation.

At Mulbarton Primary, Art is taught in blocks once a term, alternating with Design and Technology. It is taught as a subject in a skills-based manner which allows clear progression and for the teaching and learning to be more rigorous. However, it is, where possible, linked to our curriculum topics. Basic skills are introduced then built upon, including drawing, printmaking, sketchbooks, clay work, painting and making. We use progression documents for each year group to help us build upon these skills each year and to help us plan our curriculum. Skills are revisited and the use of ongoing sketchbooks / art folders underpins this process.

All year groups learn about famous artists and a range of different styles. Famous artists and architects studied include: Van Gogh, Kandinsky, Yayoi Kusama, Lowry, Andy Goldsworthy, Jackson Pollock, Paul Klee, Guiseppe Arcimboldo, Richard Long, Banksy, Georgia O'Keefe, and Daniel Libeskind.

We are working to break down preconceptions about what drawing or sculpture might be. We believe that preconceptions can stifle creativity, so we encourage experimentation, risk-taking, and innovation to allow the subject to flourish. We have become less focused on outcomes and more focused on the creative journey. We work to create confident, independent artists who can articulate and value their own creative journeys.

Impact:

Children enjoy art and are proud of their creations. They talk about the skills they have learnt with confidence and can discuss how they build on these skills each year. By creating a safe and nurturing environment, pupils are encouraged to take risks, share ideas and to learn from the journey, rather than head towards a predefined end-result.