

Subject: Art**Leader: Emily Tonkin****Quotes that guides us**

"Imagination is more important than knowledge." – Albert Einstein

"Children are naturally creative. It is our job to give them freedom, materials and space to let their creativity blossom to its full potential." Jean Van't Hul

'You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.' Maya Angelou

Why is it important to teach Art?

At Portreath we have three core elements at the heart of our school: **relationships, experiences, and learning**. We have devised a curriculum that matches the ambition of the National Curriculum and has 5 key aims that drive our curriculum. We want everyone to be:



a **DEEP THINKER** who is a fluent reader, knowledgeable, creative and that has mastered key skills in range of subjects.



an **EFFECTIVE LEARNER** who demonstrates curiosity and independence, strives to improve and is a problem solver.



a **CONFIDENT COMMUNICATOR** who is a logophile and bibliophile.



a **HAPPY AND HEALTHY INDIVIDUAL** who is inclusive, celebrates diversity and feels that they belong.



a **PERSON** who **makes a positive difference** to others, the community, the environment and the world.

Teaching art helps to fulfil these aims for every child. Art can:

- Encourage children to **think deeply** about works of art, forming opinions by evaluating their own and others work
- Just like other subjects, become **effective learners**, we improve by gaining subject knowledge and skills and practise is an essential part of developing as an artist
- Be a very powerful **communication** tool, it provides a medium to communicate and express emotions, giving each other feedback is a key component in art sessions
- Expose and celebrate a range of art and artists and this helps us to develop as **individuals** and develop our own styles and passions. It can also be used as a therapeutic tool for a **healthy mind**
- Provide opportunities to **make a positive difference** to the world by creating meaningful and statement pieces of work. It can give us opportunities to create and exhibit to others

Art is an entitlement for all pupils and plays an important part in each child's development. Art is concerned with creative and aesthetic response to the visual and tactile world. As we are concerned with the education of the whole child; and the development of artistic skills will enable the achievement of personal fulfilment and the satisfaction of each child. Art plays an important role across the primary curriculum. It is cross curricular, and every subject uses it for visual imagery.

Key Concepts – our golden threads:

As a school we have identified 7 golden threads that are the key concepts that weave throughout our art curriculum. They are:

- Self-expression and Emotions
- Everyone An Artist
- Significant Artists
- Different Media
- Times and Places
- Community Connections
- Opinions

These threads start in the EYFS and link the learning in art together across the school. They help the children to make connections. By considering these threads when planning the EYFS team start to 'plant the seed' of these concepts and prepare the children for their journey in KS1 and 2. As the Art lead, I have worked with the EYFS lead to identify key learning for EYFS to prepare them for the study of art. The children can develop so many of the key skills needed at a very early age. For example, in EYFS the children are provided with opportunities to draw and paint as a form of self-expression, emphasising that everyone is an artist. This is then built on throughout KS1 and KS2 as children are invited to form opinions on art as they are introduced to different artists. This takes place through the study of artists in Art lessons, but in addition to this all children are exposed to the works of significant artists each half term in whole-school assemblies.

What we do well as a school:

As well as discrete lessons art lends itself to being a cross curricular subject in every way. We link art to topics which deepens the children's understanding, as well as providing art with a purpose and context. Children are very proud of their work and love to see it displayed around school. We also have a wonderful local area to inspire a wealth of art projects, such as the beach and woods. As a school we have regularly worked on whole school art projects drawing on local artists and the local community. Pieces of art by local artists are displayed around the school. We worked with the Portreath Neighbourhood Development programme, where every class was involved in a printmaking project and the work being exhibited in the village. In 2022 we work with artists through 'The Hall for Cornwall' to create art from around the world as part of our whole school performance. Each half term the children are introduced to a different artist through paintings/photographs of artwork being shared at the start of Friday assemblies. Art is used in a variety of ways including therapeutic approach. For example clay figures are created during outdoor learning days and then displayed. This has previously included putting clay faces on to local trees for the community to enjoy. Outdoor learning sessions involve creating environmental pieces of art. We sign post children to lots of art competitions.

Curriculum Design

To ensure clear sequences of learning we use the Crofty MAT progression documents to plan lessons. These break down the National curriculum to give small steps that build towards key end points statements. The key skills covered link to colour, painting, drawing, printing, texture, 3d work and pattern. Key vocabulary is identified for each year group. The children learn about and are inspired by a variety of artists from different cultures and throughout history.

There is flexibility around the context the curriculum is delivered in to reflect what is most relevant at that time. Whenever possible the artwork is linked to the topic work.

We make good use of visits and visitors and think carefully about the timing of this to ensure the most learning happens as a result. We use the local area in order to create real art- and exhibit the children's art around the school and share with parents using Dojo and the school website.

Our art curriculum gives children the opportunity to:

- ♣ 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.

Teachers plan tasks around the scheme of work to make it relevant to their pupils. Art is taught through a balance of teaching methods. Pupils are given opportunities to learn through real experiences; teacher prepared materials, practical tasks, educational visits and art projects. Planning is the responsibility of the class teacher and in consultation and guidance from the art leader whenever required.

Assessment is ongoing and informal in nature. Progress in Art is recorded annually in the written report to parents in the summer term.

Activities should:

- set clear achievable goals
- ensure work is matched to pupils' abilities, experience and interest.
- Ensure progression, continuity and subject coverage throughout the school.

Resources

The central art cupboard is well resourced with suitable materials and is regularly replenished.

Training

The subject lead is always happy to give advice to other staff to support them when planning their art lessons. She uses her knowledge and experience to support subject knowledge as well as offer ideas of suitable artists etc. Going forward she will lead some staff meeting sessions to help develop everyone's subject knowledge.

What does monitoring tell us?

Discussion with children with their books and knowledge organisers show that children are able to articulate what they have learnt not just activities undertaken. The children demonstrated their enthusiasm and engagement with Art. SILC visits demonstrated that the children are able to talk about what they have learnt in detail, not just what they had done. Displays around the school and final pieces in Topic books demonstrate excellent understanding and effort from children.

Next Steps

- Amend small steps so clear to use and to ensure a clear skills progression
- More regular and effective use of sketchbooks
- Audit materials
- Child's voice- opinion on the subject and how it could be further developed
- Further enrichment opportunities