

Little Sutton Primary School

Creative Arts Policy

'The Arts are like your backbone. You may be able to survive without your backbone, but what quality of life would you have?'

Sir Simon Rattle

This statement reflects our belief that the Creative Arts, in all its varied forms, has an important role in the development of children. The provision of the creative arts within school is not simply a vehicle for wider opportunities for sensory experiences, but also a foundation for a lifelong source of pleasure and enjoyment. They offer insight into other people's values and beliefs, allowing the individual to understand and express opinions about their world.

What are the Creative Arts?

At Little Sutton Primary school, we believe that the Arts are a fundamental part of the curriculum and define the arts as music, dance, drama, art, design and technology and literature. ICT in various forms may also be included. We believe that the arts offer opportunities for the children to explore, express and communicate their feelings whilst gaining experiences of the wider world. Through experiencing the arts, children develop their creativity, self-esteem and confidence.

Aims and Objectives

The overall objective is to ensure that children are getting their entitlement to a curriculum rich in high-quality arts experiences. All children should develop respect, understanding and appreciation of their own and others cultural and linguistic heritage through the celebration of the Arts. We will provide opportunities, both in and out of school to develop self-esteem, confidence and maturity through participation in the Arts.

At Little Sutton School we strive to:

- ✓ Provide all pupils' opportunities to explore values, attitudes, meanings and feelings and acquire new skills
- ✓ Stimulate children's imagination and creative minds
- ✓ Recognise, understand and value the artistic and cultural heritage of their own and others environment
- ✓ Gain satisfaction and personal enrichment offered by participating in a range of creative arts

Organisation

While drama, dance, music, art and design technology all have their separate schemes of work, the planning within school provides many opportunities for cross curricular links across year groups and Key Stages. These subjects may be combined, supporting each other to form units of work. These are namely themed topic studies, year group performances for parents, Key Stage productions, celebration days and multi-cultural events.

This also includes one sustained whole school celebration of different world wide cultures every two years during Arts Week. Equal recognition for each branch of the creative arts is reflected in a rich and balanced curriculum.

Equal Opportunities

We recognise that children within our school have an entitlement to all aspects of the Creative Arts offered within the curriculum, regardless of race, gender or disability. Pupils with SEN are encouraged and supported where appropriate to be fully integrated into all creative arts based activities.

Planning, Monitoring and Assessment

Lessons and children's work are evaluated by individual staff through discussion and observations and on-going teacher assessment is used to inform future planning and reports to parents. Each of the arts subjects which are also a foundation subject are formally assessed once each academic year. These are planned to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum from Foundation Stage through to Year 6.

Drama is a key element of our Literacy curriculum and is used as a powerful teaching tool across the curriculum.

Dance is taught as part of our Physical Education programme.

Music takes place as part of the weekly timetable and all children are taught to use their voice as an instrument. As well, all children have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument.

Design and Technology is usually 'blocked' and links are made to the schools Enterprise initiative.

Effective planning and implementation of work ensures continuity and progression throughout the school. The arts are generally planned within year groups and we include many opportunities for cross curricular links. Monitoring planning against long term planning is the responsibility of individual co-ordinators and phase leaders

in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team. The arts co-ordinator monitors termly planning and offers support and any guidance. Issues or initiatives that may need further development are discussed with the Senior Leadership Team and may be put into our School Improvement Plan. We have a wealth of talent and expertise amongst our staff in the arts and this greatly enriches the curriculum opportunities we can offer our children.

Health and Safety

Teaching staff should be aware of any medical conditions of pupils who may have adverse reactions to materials or various mediums. All tools and materials should be used appropriately and pupils should not have access to specific items identified for adult use only – please refer to individual art and technology schemes of work. It is incumbent upon staff to inform teaching assistants and any other adult staff of the health and safety procedures of the above.

Resources

Art and design resources are kept in Art and D&T store room (consumables and display), visual materials and resources in resource room. Each year group has units of work with accompanying information and resources which may be held in class.

Music based resources and units of work are kept in class with accompanying information. Music cd's, resource books, manuscripts and instruments are held in the music room. Further instruments are held in the Foundation Stage classrooms. Children taking individual music tuition are responsible for the safe keeping of their instruments, which are held in the music room on their tuition day.

Dance Individual schemes of work with accompanying notes and cd's are held by individual year groups.

Drama and role play resources are located in classrooms, with a range of role play resources shared and rotated between KS1 and foundation classrooms.

I.C.T. - all classes have access to Interactive White Boards, including video and music playing facilities, with access to the Internet plus support materials for schemes of work. Digital cameras and videos are kept in the class and server room, with IPADS and laptops available to classes to book for different lessons. Also, there are a range of resources available on the network, which can also be used in the computer suite.

Extra-curricular Activities

We offer a range of arts clubs that can be accessed by pupils. A number of arts after school clubs are provided including dance, art, choir, and computer and gardening club.

Governor Link

It is recognised that governor links are vital to monitor activities and initiatives in the arts. The governors are fully briefed in the head-teacher's termly report, at governor

meetings and further support the school at events when the children are performing or exhibiting. The current Creative Arts governor is Mrs Philpott.

Partnerships

We believe the value of partnerships with arts organisations demonstrates excellence and raises awareness of opportunities and expectations in the arts. Through effective communication and liaison we ensure close partnerships covering a range of art forms including those of other cultures, venues and activities. Our partnerships offer a range of opportunities and we are always looking to create new links. These partnerships benefit:

- Curriculum development
- Community links
- Staff development
- Children's creative achievements
- Gifted and talented pupils

The arts policy will be regularly evaluated and reviewed through the school development planning process and in consultation with the school governors to ensure quality, supported by continuing INSET.

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