



Art and Design at Spire Junior School Curriculum Statement



Intent of the Art and Design Curriculum

The central aim of our school curriculum is to develop the whole child and shape their minds for positive learning experiences about the world around them. We strongly believe in encouraging curiosity, exploration and developing a strong sense of self-identity.

The school believes that Art and Design is a vital part of children's education. We offer our pupils enriching opportunities to develop their critical abilities and understand the diverse cultures, artists and heritage around them; enabling the children to reach their full potential.

The National Curriculum for Art aims that all pupils:

- Are taught to develop their techniques, their control and their use of materials
- Have an awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design
- Have sketchbooks to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas
- Improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials
- Learn about great artists, architects and designers in history

The National Curriculum for Design and Technology aims to ensure that all children:

- Develop the creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to participate successfully in an increasingly technological world.
- Build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users.
- Critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others.
- Understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.

Art and Design stimulates pupils' imaginations by exposing them to new techniques and artists and gives them the tools to express themselves. Art and Design in school works closely in tandem with our topic-based curriculum and are often linked into the final project produced at the end of each topic. Through our Art and Design teaching and learning, pupils develop a respect for the art surrounding them and they develop skills to evaluate and debate.

We intend for all children to take part and enjoy submersing themselves in a wide variety of artist skills and learning journeys, including with pencils, paint, clay, collage and computer-based products and artistic manipulation. This includes a photography unit, our work on sculptures, work with local artists, mosaic, sewing and cookery skills.

Implementation of the Art and Design Curriculum

Our curriculum at Spire is carefully planned and organised so as to promote a deep understanding of the projects and concepts that we cover through quality first teaching. We do this by equipping our pupils with the skills and qualities they need to thrive both within the curriculum and within the wider-world.

The skills and knowledge the children develop throughout each art topic are mapped across each year group and are progressive throughout the school. Each child has a set of milestone statements and vocabulary in their sketchbooks which records their knowledge, practice and development.



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A systematic approach to the development of artistic skills means the children are given opportunities to express and practice their creative imagination, develop their mastery and discover the influences that artists and designers experience in the real world.

Art and Design underpins the whole curriculum, with art and integral part of the “end product” of each topic and the main driver in the create topic in the summer term which culminates in an Art Week where the whole school works towards creating costumes, masks and music for an art parade around the local community in a celebration on the children’s work.

Children are engaged in a range of cookery lessons of both sweet and savoury recipes with the additional offer of after-school clubs when available to support this. Additionally, children will develop their textile and sewing ability throughout their time at Spire and apply these skills to a variety of creations. There are many opportunities for We intend for all children to be proud of the products they design, make and evaluate in their art and design lessons, as well as for the nature of these products to become more complex with age and ability.

Impact of the Art and Design Curriculum

We are confident our curriculum is successful in the teaching and learning of Art and Design through a variety of monitoring and feedback activities which have taken place through school.

The use of sketchbooks, that follow the children through their school life, means that children can review, modify and develop their ideas to achieve high quality outcomes. The children can develop their understanding and application of texture, shape, form, colour, perspective and composition. This skill of evaluating along with high quality teaching and support allows the children to achieve age-related expectations at the end of their cohort year.

Children’s art is widely displayed both in and out of school with displays and local community art projects including shop displays, a link with Chatsworth House, art parades and entrance into local competitions such as “Chesterfield in Bloom”. These all demonstrate the importance of art in the school curriculum and its importance in personal development, independence and self-reflection.

Recently, we have taken part in the Arts Mark Award through our partnership with Chatsworth House. We proudly accepted the award in January 2022 after our work in the Autumn term. The work of our children was praised by the moderator, as was the work and dedication of the staff towards the project (including the efforts of the Art and Design Coordinator).

“The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls” – Pablo Picasso