



ART and DESIGN CURRICULUM

What we teach

At Bishops Itchington Primary School, we aim to make art an enjoyable and fulfilling learning experience. Our art and design curriculum follows the national curriculum and allows children to explore and evaluate different creative ideas using a range of media and materials. We engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of art while building their confidence and creativity. We offer a variety of creative experiences within and beyond the classroom from Reception to Year 6.

The children learn the skills of drawing, painting, collage, 3D-work and digital art in a progressive journey as they develop. They apply these skills to our cross-curricular topics of study when appropriate and are encouraged to experiment to achieve the intended outcome and their audience.

The children explore the styles of historical and modern artists and craftspeople and learn about their techniques and creative intent. The pupils experiment and use their own creativity to produce their own artwork. The children are encouraged to study topics in greater depth by sketching historical artefacts in detail or researching geographical locations to support their landscape painting. Mathematical links are made by printing repeating patterns and designs and thinking about 3D shapes to support structures. The children are expected to be reflective and evaluate their work, thinking about how they could make changes and keep improving.

How we teach

Art is taught in a relaxed environment with carefully planned lessons that link to topics providing depth of study. Lessons are progressive on a theme, and skills are built upon as the children move through the school. Children's work is displayed to celebrate their creativity and achievements.

Children's work is also celebrated through gallery days each year to which parents are invited. The art curriculum is further enriched with designated art days and competitions that focus on featured artists and themes. E.g. children's book illustrators, creating art with a disability, art inspired by Australian artist Clifford Possum and Georgia O'Keefe. Through this work children are encouraged to follow their own ideas and creativity; working in groups, creating sculptures and using mixed media. Every piece of art is displayed in our own Art gallery.

Gifted and talented artists within Key Stage 2 have taken part in the Warwickshire Trail/ Open Gallery within our village and visited a local gallery and met with local artists.

We use the outdoors and the local area as our classroom. KS1 go to church to sketch, Years 3 and 4 go to the 'Yellow Land' [nature area in the village] and Years 5 and 6 sketch prominent buildings around the village with a focus on perspective.

Impact

Within EYFS children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts where they explore and play with a wide range of media and materials.

Children's artwork is celebrated throughout school in vibrant displays. In Key Stage One pupils sketch in their own individual sketch books and in carefully curated portfolios for Key Stage Two. This allows children to see and appreciate their own progress.

Children create artwork that is showcased in the community settings such as the local church and the doctors' surgery.

Children have the opportunity to visit amazing local historical and artistic sites such as Compton Verney where they create Viking clay pots and drawings, Chedworth Villa where they make mosaic tiles. Children also experience making hieroglyphic pens and papyrus paper and painted in the Egyptian style and discover the local graffiti artist 'Brink Street Art' within their graffiti topic.

The children feel like real artists, take ownership of their own learning and know what jobs they could have within the artistic community.

Pupil Voice

Pupil voice evidence demonstrates that pupils have a highly positive attitude towards art and value the calm, relaxing, and therapeutic environment that lessons provide.

Children speak positively about the opportunity to be creative, to learn and practise different skills, make their own artistic choices, and work with a wide range of materials such as paints, pastels, and watercolours. They particularly enjoy drawing and painting activities and describe satisfaction in seeing colours merge together and artworks develop over time. They also reflect confidently on their progress, explaining that they can recognise improvements in their work through learning new skills such as shading and layering. Children also demonstrate resilience and pride in their achievements, often revisiting work to improve it further.

Children value the supportive nature of lessons and state that they feel comfortable asking teachers or peers for help when needed. Some pupils highlight the importance of displays and opportunities for their artwork to be celebrated publicly, explaining that this increases confidence and motivation.

Positive comments are made about the variety of artistic experiences available, including trying different media, participating in competitions, and working on projects linked to themes and artists. Some pupils particularly appreciate opportunities to express themselves creatively and explained that art helps them to relax and feel proud of their achievements.

Overall, pupil responses suggest that art is viewed as an enjoyable, inclusive, and engaging subject where they learn difficult skills and are supported both creatively and with their wellbeing.