

The Arts Policy

Introduction

This policy document is a statement of the aims and objectives of the provision of the Arts at our school. We define the Arts as encompassing Art & Design, Drama, Dance and Music. They are taught as discrete subjects, combined artform subjects and are also integrated into other curriculum areas.

Mission Statement

As a school we value *The Arts* as a central part of school life. We believe that engagement with the Arts can boost both academic and cultural performance for pupils. By developing an 'Arts Rich Curriculum' we believe we can help pupils to develop critical aesthetic awareness and judgement. We want to contribute to the quality of our children's lives both within and beyond school.

Rationale:

Arts education enables the development of creativity, skills and expression. It helps pupils to expand and develop their understanding, perceptions and interpretation of their world. At New Ash Green it is our firm belief that to enhance and enrich children's learning we need to remain fully committed to our arts curriculum. By sustaining and developing the Arts we can ensure that a broad and balanced curriculum is offered to our pupils and that the development of the whole child is enhanced through a planned and effective Arts policy.

AIMS	OBJECTIVES
To provide equal opportunities and entitlement to a range of high quality arts experiences for all pupils, whatever their background and ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure that our Arts curriculum offers a wide range of activities and experiences• To provide regular opportunities for integrated work in the arts through careful planning
To provide opportunities to experience a range of artforms from different cultures and traditions, and an awareness of the identity and place of these in the wider community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To develop pupils' knowledge, understanding and awareness of the social, historical and cultural contexts of the arts through our annual Multi-Cultural week• To ensure our curriculum represents the diversity of the arts
To develop pupils' self esteem and independence through class work, extra-curricular activities, exhibitions and performances, both individually and as part of a team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To give all pupils the opportunity to exhibit work regularly and to take part in a performance to a wider audience at least once a year• To give all pupils opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities and clubs
To develop the ability to appreciate, make judgements and develop critical and visual awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide opportunities for pupils to experience work of professional artists through exhibitions or by working alongside artists• To develop the skills and abilities to engage in and reflect upon aesthetic experiences.

Planning the Arts:

Generally, all teachers follow the long term plans for each subject and from these more detailed medium term plans are generated, which show progress within the unit and how they build on prior learning. The plans also show the context and how each subject is integrated into the current topic. Teachers then plan in teams to produce detailed weekly activities with specific learning intentions. Each arts subject has its own action plan showing targets for development which in turn feed into the School Self Evaluation Form.

Curriculum Provision:

Each Arts subject is timetabled weekly for art and design, music, dance and drama in Key Stages 1 and 2 and in the Expressive Arts area for our Foundation Stage children. (Please refer to separate subject policies for detailed provision). A minimum of 15% of curriculum time is given to the Arts in Key Stage 2 and this is increased to over 17% in Key Stage 1. There will also be additional dedicated time for the Arts to allow for performances and rehearsals, visiting professionals, instrument tuition, visits to arts venues, etc. At other times discrete groups of pupils may engage with visiting practitioners of different art forms as part of joint arts projects or our school's Arts Week. Pupils across the school have the opportunity to take part in our wide range of extra-curricular Arts activities.

Resources:

We have two school halls which are both used for dance, music and drama both in school time and in out-of-hours time. We also have a mobile classroom and spare classroom which are used as necessary for class work and/or small group performance rehearsals. Our halls are used for school productions, concerts and assemblies. Our large hall is equipped with a stage, lighting and sound system. In addition, classrooms are used for Art, drama and music lessons. We also have some provision for peripatetic music teaching. All areas of the school have some resources for art and a good range of musical instruments. There are also shared resources stored centrally.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting:

'Assessment for Learning' principles are used throughout the school and learning intentions are made explicit for every lesson. The children are encouraged to set success criteria and evaluate their performance and achievement against their own prior attainment. Identifying 'next steps' in learning is integral to all our assessment strategies. Other assessment opportunities may include:

- Pupils' demonstration of their ability to select appropriate materials
- Organisational and collaborative skills
- Response and critical awareness

Pupils are challenged to respond to the work of artists and performers through questionnaires, discussion groups and analysis of performances. In addition to self-evaluation they are given the opportunity to reflect and respond to each other's work.

Outcomes in the arts are recorded through photographic evidence, taped and video recordings, notes on discussions with children and through observation. A portfolio of

art work is maintained by the visual arts subject leader. Subject leaders monitor the teaching of individual arts subjects and the school reports to parents termly through interviews and the annual report.

Equal Opportunities:

We aim to give all pupils equal access to the arts subjects, including children with additional educational needs. No child is discriminated against on grounds of disability, race, gender, ethnicity or religion.

Further details can be found in our Equal Opportunities Policy.

Extra Curricular Arts Activities:

We have thriving clubs for dance, drama, art, choir, crafts, violin, guitar, etc. Many clubs are offered to different age groups on a rota in order to engage as many children as possible over a school year. Views of the children are taken into account and are asked what clubs they would like via questionnaires and with school council.

Throughout the year we have dance instructors and workshops to enhance the curriculum within each year group. KIC theatre also visit twice a year.

Monitoring and Review

Subject leaders for the separate Arts subjects monitor their own policies, provision, planning and resources. The subject leader coordinator is responsible for the overarching Arts Policy and reports to the Governors' Learning and Development Team.

New Ash Green Primary School awarded Artsmark Gold

Arts Council England has awarded Artsmark Gold to New Ash Green Primary School in recognition of the school's commitment to, and excellence in, arts education. New Ash Green Primary School is part of the 1676 schools in England who received an Artsmark award this year.

The headteacher of New Ash Green Primary School, said:

“I'm delighted that the Arts Council has recognised New Ash Green Primary School's dynamic arts education programme. Our pupils have really enjoyed working in partnership with our local secondary school, Longfield Academy, and local theatre groups. I'd like to thank all our staff for their hard work in achieving this award.”

“Artsmark is more than simply a mark of distinction to us; taking part in the scheme has enabled us to develop our arts provision, and see the pupils become more self-confident, engaged and excited about learning.”

Alan Davey, Chief Executive, Arts Council England, said:

“Arts Council England believes that the earlier children are creatively inspired, the more likely they are to have a lifelong engagement with art – something that can transform lives and give young people a voice for their thoughts and feelings.”

“Artsmark – now nationally recognised as a prestigious and coveted award – sets the standard for an outstanding arts provision in schools and it's great to see so many new schools attaining the Artsmark award this year. This award recognises New Ash Green Primary School's commitment to providing exciting art experiences and their belief in the power of creativity.”