



## Curriculum Intent Statement - Art and Photography

Art and Photography at St Paul's is the expression of an innate will to shape, mark, mould, transform or otherwise modify one's surroundings, but it is subject to aesthetic cultural codes and centred in our Catholic beliefs. Our teaching therefore is concerned with more than practical activity alone; it addresses the practical means of cultural expression.

Pupils are taught essential skills and basic theory in the context of contemporary and past Art and Photography practice. We devise detailed work schemes in response to a core departmental curriculum. To begin with, projects and assignments are fairly brief and quite prescriptive so as to focus upon the concepts and skills being taught. As pupils progress, more scope is given for divergence and interpretation. They are shown how to manipulate and structure the elements of form to create coherent compositions. We introduce them to the technical processes of painting, print-making and ceramics – among other media - and encourage them to use sketchbooks as a tool for gathering information, experimenting and recording. Selected techniques (such as those of certain contemporary and early modernist graphic artists) or Art Historical episodes (such as the Early Renaissance, Impressionism and Pop Art) are frequently taken as points of departure for projects by younger pupils. As their experience grows, they may choose which aspects of other artists' work to assimilate and can decide how to apply them to their own creative ends. At A-level, our students are encouraged to site their practices in relation to themes or contexts they identify in the contemporary art world or in the art of the past.

### **Intent**

We aim to maintain and stimulate lasting student curiosity, interest and enjoyment in the Arts.

To create an atmosphere where students wish to learn, so that they can come to enjoy the Arts, because they are active participants and where staff enjoy teaching so that they give of their very best. To enable each student to achieve his/her potential in a variety of situations using all available resources appropriately, to ensure the highest level of achievement for each student.

To enable students to be familiar with a body of knowledge, principles, skills, techniques and vocabulary related to the Arts subjects. By building on their knowledge of the basic drawing and painting skills in year 7 and developing these each year.

By exposing students to a wide range of material we aim to enable students to see the Arts as:

- a major cultural feature
- a part of a wider body of knowledge and skills

To enable students to develop a range of desirable personal qualities such as politeness, perseverance, initiative, confidence, undivided awareness and group sensitivity.

To enable students to work independently and as part of a team in varied activities so that the Arts contribute to the development of core skills such as ICT, reading, writing, speaking and numeracy as well as reflect the catholic ethos.

To employ teaching methods and resources that allow all students (irrespective of their gender, ethnic origin, academic ability etc.) to have equal access to the Arts and to experience success and enjoyment in their work.

To value each individual and so encourage each student to feel the value and worth of others, so that each student approaches issues of race, gender and ability with tolerance and insight.

To develop an awareness in students of the implications of the Arts (past and present) for the individual, local, national and international communities.

To allow students to develop informal opinions and to be able to support them by reasonable arguments free from prejudicial intolerance.

To foster and encourage a lasting enjoyment and appreciation of the Arts from a variety of cultures and traditions.

## **Implementation**

To develop creativity and imagination through a diverse range of schemes of work and activities.

To develop investigative, analytical and interpretive skills.

To complete the programme of study in art thus enabling all students to achieve the Attainment Targets of the National Curriculum.

To achieve the end of Key Stage descriptors for art via the programmes of study.

To achieve GCSE and A level qualifications within an arts subject through differentiation and accessibility for all students.

To develop students' abilities to work individually, in small groups and as a whole group.

To make appropriate use of ICT, reading, writing, verbal skills and numeracy.

To provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities where students can develop their interest within the arts.

To actively develop the art practitioners to enable them to meet the needs of St Pauls students.

Make links with the governors and the wider community which in turn will strengthen and broaden arts provision at St Pauls Catholic School.

## **Impact**

We will know we have been successful when creativity and imaginative thought is at the heart of the school curriculum and reflects our catholic ethos.

The arts staff are all committed to provision of the arts on a broad basis. We engage the young people within the CMAT with a wide variety of art forms, aiming to explore values, attitudes, feelings and meanings.

Arts subjects are unique, in that they cover a broad base of citizenship content; helping students to access a full and well-rounded education, in turn promoting self-awareness, self-esteem, confidence and maturity.

Each member of the department is a discreet specialist, committed to providing young people with a wide variety of experience within their specialism. We offer extra-curricular provision to further students' interests, and developing programmes of study that encompass the multi facets of each subject area. Working together, we encourage students to work independently and in teams to share arts experiences and present artwork to a wider audience.

In addition, we are committed to partnerships with various outside agencies; for example, the Open Gallery at New Walk Museum and the Leicester Print workshop. The arts-staff are all keen to develop further provision, by building on existing partnerships, and making new openings where opportunities are offered within the CMAT. Training and working as a team to support one another in a collaborative approach is also an important aspect of our work.

We recognise the importance to plan and review together in order to enable breadth, depth and progression in our arts provision and practice, which is done on an on-going basis. Regular detailed audits take place; we continue to plan for development and contribute fully to the building of the ethos of arts provision and creativity.