

St. Michael's CE Aided Primary School

Arts Policy

At St Michael's School we are committed to providing an Arts curriculum in art and design, music, dance and drama which provides a broad range and depth of the highest quality. All children are provided with the opportunity to be able to enjoy and engage in the arts as **makers, performers, exhibitors** and as **spectators**.

Key Aims and Objectives

At St Michael's School we believe children of all ages and abilities have an entitlement to the Arts as they play a major role in a child's emotional, physical, cognitive, personal and social development. Children should have access to a wide range of activities and experiences in order to:

- Learn to enjoy and appreciate the Arts through making, performing, exhibiting, spectating and evaluating
- Study through an integrated curriculum so that children understand the links between the Arts and other curricular subjects
- Learn about the Arts of diverse cultures
- Develop self-esteem, confidence and maturity through participation in the Arts

We aim to achieve this by:

- Providing an arts curriculum of quality, range and depth
- Ensuring that Arts teachers have access to regular continuing professional development to refresh their personal creativity and keep them up to date with developments
- Giving all pupils an opportunity to exhibit work or take part in a performance at least once a year
- Presenting Arts work to parents and the community at least once a year
- Offering all pupils the opportunity to work alongside professional artists
- Planning visits to see work exhibited and performed by artists

Teaching and Learning

Teachers use a variety of teaching and learning styles, these include: demonstrations, discussions, practical work, investigation of open-ended activities and whenever possible, through visits and/or workshops in school.

We recognise the needs of all children and ensure Arts experiences are both engaging and motivating for all. To meet this goal we use the following strategies:

- Setting common tasks that are open-ended and can have a variety of responses
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty, where not all children will complete tasks
- Grouping children by ability and setting different tasks for each group
- Providing a range of challenges with different resources
- Using additional adults to support the work of individual children or small groups
- Organising gifted and talented activities where appropriate

Subject specific objectives and aims are explained in the policies and are also seen on the topic plans which form the medium term planning for all classes from the Foundation stage to Year 6. All medium and short term planning is filed in subject folders for access by all teachers including relevant subject leaders.

All pupils will undertake a balance of the Arts activities within each Key Stage which progressively teach the skills, knowledge and understanding of the art form. The main components are:

- Producing creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
- Becoming proficient in techniques used by artists in their field
- Evaluating and analysing creative works using relevant technical language
- Performing and exhibiting the Arts.
- Responding to the Arts (this covers watching, appreciating and appraising).

The Arts across the curriculum

St Michael's School currently teach an integrated curriculum which links the Arts to core and foundation subjects through a variety of Topics in the following ways:

- Story telling facilitates the use of drama, music, dance or art which may be used to stimulate writing or introduce new concepts. Speaking and listening activities often use drama such as hot seating or role play, which then enhance children's literacy skills.
- Art work contributes to the investigation and understanding of shape and space in mathematics: pattern work and work on two and three dimensions.

- Geography and history can be brought to life through role play, re-enactments, painting, and sculpture.
- ICT is frequently used to support the teaching of the Arts in school; use of apps on Ipads encourages exploration of skills and techniques.
- Transition project for languages - an art and language project for Year 6 pupils based on the children using the target language to comment critically on work by an artist from the target language country, e.g. Spanish and Picasso.

Art software programs can develop digital artwork, shape and space, visual images. The use of Internet and research engines provides endless possibilities for study and enhanced learning. The teaching of the Arts offers opportunities to support the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children. Individual and group work generates chances to discuss ideas and feelings; encourages collaboration and co-operation; children learn to respect and work with each other.

Assessment and recording

The level descriptors for all Arts subject areas as set out in the National Curriculum are used to assess pupils. Effective assessment also includes the pupils' own responses to their learning, either in an oral or written form (pupil feedback sheet), as well as the elements of; planning, teaching, reporting, recording and evaluating. We provide verbal interim reports for parents on the progress of their children in the autumn and spring and full reports at the end of the summer term.

Monitoring and review

Excellence and enjoyment in the Arts is celebrated in a variety of ways; displays in classrooms and throughout the school, in our 'Sharing' assemblies, membership in Oxfordshire Arts Week, annual end-of-year performances and competition entries. The monitoring of the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching is the responsibility of the co-ordinator. The work of the subject leaders also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of the Arts, being informed about current developments in a subject and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject.

Professional Development

St Michael's School ensures that all teachers and support staff have regular opportunities to extend and develop their skills and knowledge with regards to The Arts.

Facilities and Resources

Resources for the Arts subjects are paid for out of the subject-specific budgets and are allocated according to need and priority.

A room is available for small group music lessons. The provision of a specialist from Oxfordshire County Music Service provides class teaching for Year 4 one day a week, raising the profile of playing an instrument. This increases the percentage of those pupils who are likely to play an instrument in the future. A piano is available in the hall to accompany singing practice and for musical accompaniment in performances.

Costumes and backdrops from past performances are organised in attic storage; wooden staging enhances performance appreciation by the audience.

The 'Outdoor classroom' provides opportunities for inspiration and performances in the Arts.

Extra-curriculum activities, visits and links with professional artists and performers

Each academic year, St Michael's School engages a variety of professional artists to work in school for short extended periods. We are dedicated and enthusiastic about working with outside agencies including; musicians, authors, actors, poets, dancers, artists, teachers, parents of the school and any other 'artists' within our local community. Currently we have a relationship with the Story Museum in Oxford which provides interactive workshops for the children to explore authors and a range of genres. Opportunities will be provided whenever possible for pupils to be part of an audience at a range of performances and we offer after school clubs in the Arts to further extend the opportunities available to the pupils of St Michael's School.

Links with the wider community

We aim to involve the wider school community in our efforts and in particular parents and families. To encourage participation by the wider community we will regularly invite parents into the school to watch performances, view work created by the children and participate in creative projects at home and in school.

In summary - our Arts entitlement

All our children have the opportunity to enjoy a range of experiences and express themselves in art, music, dance and drama through:

- Wide ranging topics with arts opportunities
- Special whole school themed weeks including Arts Week
- Theatre and other performances in school
- Visits to professional theatre productions and art exhibitions
- Learning a range of instruments
- Wider opportunities in music teaching
- Participation in a range of out of school clubs
- Performing in school performances, assemblies and concerts
- Performing outside school at Arts events and festivals
- Participating in National Arts projects and award schemes
- Participation in workshops delivered by the Story Museum
- Collecting evidence for Bronze Art Award from Trinity College, London

Monitoring

The Arts Policy will be reviewed at regular intervals to ensure the needs of all pupils are being met and that the Arts curriculum reflects the changing nature of the art form.

	Staff	Curriculum Committee	Governing Body
Policy agreed by	08.01.2013	22.01.2013	30.01.13
Policy reviewed by			
Coordinator	S. Hastings		