



Our approach to Art and Design at Whitegate End

Our Vision

"Every child is an artist" – Pablo Picasso

At Whitegate End we believe that art is one of the highest forms of expression, that can raise self-esteem and allow a child to communicate their individual thoughts, feelings and ideas.

It is part of a well-rounded education that can enrich and bring to life a topic. At Whitegate End children will have the opportunity to learn the discrete skills of art, as well as to experiment and play with art in a range of media. It will be an outlet for every child's creativity and will be a vehicle to learn other subjects.

Children will experience and learn skills in the five aspects of art (drawing, painting, collage, printing and sculpting), through high quality teaching. They will be introduced to the work of well-known artists and artwork, past and present, and will be encouraged to critique and appreciate art in its many forms.

Why we teach art

At Whitegate End we believe that art education develops:

Imagination and creativity. Children can take their experiences of the world and transform them through art, making new connections and relationships. Their knowledge, memories and fantasies all feed their imagination. Art allows children to explore, build on and record their own creative and imaginative ideas.

Visual thinking. Pictures encourage us to think about and understand the world visually, instead of restricting learning and the acquisition of knowledge to words and numbers alone. Visual thinking helps children learn other subjects. It is a skill used in a wide variety of professions, including the sciences as well as the arts.

Observational skills. Making pictures helps children observe the subject matter of what they are drawing more closely, and in turn this makes them better observers of detail in the world around them. These observational skills facilitate the child's visual sensitivity to the world.

Problem solving and analytical skills. Pictures enable children to explore and test out ideas, while making decisions on how they choose to depict them. For example, children will learn problem-solving skills as they work through trying to create a three-dimensional scene from the world on a two-dimensional page. With practice, children learn that concentration and persistence allow them to get closer to the pictures they are trying to achieve.

Autonomy and self-esteem. A child's picture is his or her own. It has worth in its own right, without having to be measured or judged by others as right or wrong. The child has the authority to say what the picture is of, or what it communicates, building up their confidence and self-esteem.

Principles of Art Education

We believe in the core principles of Art and Design in the National Curriculum.

"Art, craft and design embody some of the highest forms of human creativity. A high-quality art and design education should engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design. As pupils progress, they should be able to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of art and design. They should also know how art and design both reflect and shape our history, and contribute to the culture, creativity and wealth of our nation." The National Curriculum for England, 2014.



At Whitegate End our art and design curriculum aims:

- to enable children to record from first-hand experience and from imagination, and to select their own ideas to use in their work.
- to develop creativity and imagination through a range of simple and more complex activities.
- to improve the children's ability to control materials, tools and techniques.
- to increase their critical awareness of the roles and purposes of art and design in different times and cultures.
- to develop increasing confidence in the use of visual and tactile elements and materials.
- to foster an enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts, and a knowledge of artists, craftspeople and designers.

At Whitegate End we enable each child to:

- produce creative work, exploring their ideas, thoughts and feelings, and recording their experiences.
- become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture, collage and printing.
- record, evaluate and analyse creative works, including their own and their peers, using the language of art, craft and design.
- know about great artists, and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art form.
- Enjoy and appreciate the visual arts.

What we teach in art education

In the Early Years Foundation Stage pupils will be taught:

- A range of mark making skills indoors and outdoors, and on a small and large scale.
- How to use and explore a range of media and materials, both natural and man-made.
- How to record what they see and imagine.
- How to express their thoughts and feelings about their own art work and that of others.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, we ensure respect the individual development and stage of the child.

Key Stage 1 Pupils will be taught:

- To use a range of materials creatively to design and make products.
- To use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experience and imagination.
- To develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space.
- About the range of artists, and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines and making links to their own work.

Key Stage 2 Pupils will be taught:

- To develop their techniques, including their control and use of materials with creativity, experimentation and an increased awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design.
- To create sketch books to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas
- To improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials (for example, pencil, charcoal, paint, clay) □ About great artists, and designers in history.



How we teach art and design at Whitegate End

At Whitegate End we use a variety of teaching and learning styles in art and design lessons. Our principal aim is to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding. We ensure that the act of investigating and making something includes exploring and developing ideas and evaluating and developing work. We do this best through a mixture of whole class teaching. Teachers draw attention to good examples of individual performance as models for the other children. They encourage children to evaluate their own ideas and methods and the work of others, and to say what they think and feel about them. We give children the opportunity to work, by themselves and in collaboration with others, on projects in two and three dimensions, and at different scales. Children also have the opportunity to use a wide range of materials and resources.

Assessment of the subject and how this is used

As with all areas of the curriculum, assessment is an integral part of the teaching process. Class teachers should keep records of work carried out, and levels of achievement of the work. Photographs are a useful tool to keep as a reminder of pupil's achievement. Formative assessment is used to guide the process of individual pupils in Art and Design. It involves identifying each child's progress in each aspect of the curriculum, determining what each child has learnt and what should therefore be the next step in their learning. Formative assessment is mostly carried out informally by the teachers in the course of their teaching and should be based on the identified assessment opportunities.

Links to other areas of the curriculum

Art and design support the teaching of other subject by enhancing them and providing a range of recording opportunities that can showcase children's new found knowledge and understanding.