



St. Thomas' Church of England

Primary School

Arts Policy



Introduction

This Arts Policy, covering the subject areas of literature (taught through English and Drama); Music, Drama, and Art and Design, supports and underpins the thriving and exciting work in the Arts at St. Thomas'. It is a statement of the school's commitment to the Arts and the creative development of all our children – irrespective of ability, gender or cultural background.

Mission statement

At St. Thomas' we believe that an emphasis on the arts promotes independence, a willingness to take risks that develops confident, expressive learners. We see the arts as an integral part of our broad and creative curriculum providing all children with an outlet for expression and the opportunity to develop a broad range of arts skills.

At St. Thomas' we believe that Art and Design, Literature, Music, Drama and Dance are powerful forms of communication that develop children's abilities to make their own judgements and support an increase in self-discipline, aesthetic understanding and personal expression.

Through active involvement in visual, tactile and sensory experiences our children can respond in their own unique ways developing self-esteem, confidence and maturity. The arts are used to guide our children to recognise their strengths, to excel and express their creativity. We value everyone's contributions and achievements celebrating this both within school and the local community.

Aims

The arts at St. Thomas' will:

Ensure children engage with a variety of art forms, to explore values, attitudes, feelings and meanings

- Provide an inclusive arts curriculum of quality, range and depth, including arts from varied diverse cultures
- Ensure arts experiences promote self-expression and creativity
- Provide opportunities to develop self-esteem, confidence and maturity through the participation in the arts
- Ensure arts teachers have access to regular CPD to refresh their creativity

Enable children to appreciate, reflect and make value judgements about their work and that of others

- Develop vocabulary so children are able to communicate their ideas and to evaluate their own and the work of others
- Experience contemporary and traditional artists in all art forms from a variety of cultures
- Provide opportunities for all children to exhibit their work and take part in performances

Encourage all children to be enthusiastic participants in the arts

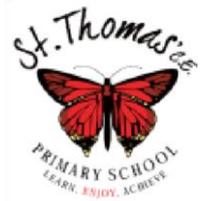
- Develop an understanding of the arts in society through cultural visits and collaborations with arts professionals
- Provide a range of after school learning experiences within the arts
- Facilitate opportunities for children to work both individually and cooperatively as part of a group on larger projects
- Foster links with local schools to share expertise and participate in events to a wider audience



St. Thomas' Church of England

Primary School

Arts Policy



Role of the Arts Team

The Arts Team consists of the Subject Leaders for Art, Music, PE, Literacy and a Drama Professional. The team works together to:

- Develop a creative curriculum designed to ensure progression
- Support colleagues in developing arts practice
- Monitor progress in the arts
- Purchase and organise resources
- Identify opportunities for Arts Partnerships

Curriculum Provision

Entitlement at Nursery and Foundation Stage

- Creative Development in art and design, drama, music and dance are planned for each week through cross curricular and child initiated learning

Entitlement at KS1 and KS2

- **Music** – Is taught discretely by individual class teachers and is supported through weekly singing by a subject specialist. In addition all children participate in daily singing in Collective Worship and enhanced through the Sing Up Programme
- **Dance** – Is taught through the PE curriculum and more focused workshops throughout the year
- **Drama** – is taught by a drama professional as well as in cross curricula experiences
- **Art and Design** – Is taught by a subject specialist as well as in cross curricula experiences
- **Digital Media** - Is used and explored through both the computing and arts curriculum

Planning, Assessment, Progression and Evaluation

The arts are planned both across the school and in year groups to ensure continuity and progression. Individual subject leaders and the Arts Team monitor planning and offer support and guidance. Lessons and children's work are evaluated by staff through discussion and observations and on- going teacher assessment is used to inform future planning. The nominated Arts Governor also monitors the arts provision.

Celebration

At St. Thomas' we celebrate our children's work within the arts through:

- Awarding a Speaker of the Week
- Awarding artist of the Week
- Visual arts displays within and beyond the school community
- Super Singing Days
- Video and visual celebrations shared on the schools Facebook and Twitter pages
- Debating competitions
- Weekly assemblies
- School and local arts performances
- Class productions



St. Thomas' Church of England

Primary School

Arts Policy



Arts Partnerships

We aim to offer our children a minimum of one opportunity to work alongside an arts professional each year. We recognise the importance of such partnerships to:

- Promote high standards and raise expectations
- Create positive links with the wider community
- Provide authentic learning experiences in a wide range of the arts

The Arts policy at St. Thomas' will be regularly evaluated and reviewed through the school development planning process to ensure quality and supported by continuing CPD.

*** Signed on hardcopy

Subject lead

Headteacher.....

Nominated Governor.....