



### Vision

At St. Thomas' C of E Academy, our curriculum is built upon our mission statement, to enable all children to "Grow, learn and shine together with God". We inspire children to be 'Active Learners' and 'Creative Thinkers' through the use of the 'St Thomas' 10 Star Learning behaviours' and the 'St Thomas' 'Ds'.

### Intent

At St Thomas', we believe in nurturing a lifelong love of art for our pupils. The development of our children's creativity, self-esteem, and how they represent and interpret the world is at the heart of our curriculum. Our bespoke curriculum is designed to inspire, engage and challenge every child's artistic development and knowledge in line with age related expectations from the National Curriculum. Children will use and understand colour, form, texture, pattern and the use of different materials and processes to communicate what they see, feel, believe and think. Delivered through first hand experiences, our carefully designed sequence of learning celebrates diversity and the importance of representation to our pupils through the artists the children are exposed to throughout their time at St Thomas'. Exploring local artists and public art installations in our community engage children see the importance of Art in our modern world. Children will explore and be exposed to ideas and meanings in the work of a variety of artists, crafts people and designers from a diverse range of cultures and time periods. Children are encouraged to develop both their ability to respond critically to works of art, and to develop their skills and confidence in their own artistic skills. Our shared vision for our school community is to showcase and take pride in the individuality of our children's artwork. We intend for the Art and Design skills that children develop to compliment, enhance and extend their learning across our wider curriculum.

### Implementation

Our carefully designed schemes of work ensure a progression of Art and Design, through the knowledge and artistic skills both within and across each year group. Throughout their time at St Thomas', children build upon their skills, knowledge and techniques year on year. Each scheme provides children opportunities to build on their previous understanding through the four areas of content: artistic skill, generating ideas, their knowledge of artists and evaluating their work. A carefully selected key artist or movement is at the heart of each scheme across school to provide children with an intriguing hook to their learning journey.

In Early Years, Art is taught through focused artist and medium exploration termly, and through continuous provision opportunities to enrich and embed skills that they have learned. In KS1 and KS2, Art is taught in discrete blocks, throughout the year, to ensure depth in coverage and to aid children's recall and retention of their learning. Links are explicitly made between other curriculum subjects, in particular History, so children can build secure mental schema of the topics taught. Furthermore, children frequently have opportunities across the curriculum to apply their art skills and enrich their learning.

Children use sketchbooks to record, research and build upon their creative thoughts and ideas to stimulate their imagination and generate new ideas. They are used on an ongoing basis to encourage creativity, automaticity and allow children to continuously experiment with the formal elements of line, shape, colour, form and space. Various media types are explored within each scheme to give the widest possible range of experiences for all children. Children will be encouraged to ask questions, interpret, discuss and critique the high quality artwork that they are exposed to. Key knowledge, language and meanings, through the use of knowledge organisers, support our children to understand and readily apply new terminology to their work in Art and across the wider curriculum.

## Cultural Capital

We enhance the curriculum and our children's cultural capital in various ways, for example:

- ✚ High quality resources to support and enhance our curriculum
- ✚ Termly exhibitions at the end of each Art fortnight to showcase and celebrate children's learning
- ✚ Children enjoy weekly extra-curricular Art activities, such as Arts and Crafts club, and Mindful Colouring club
- ✚ Creativity is showcased as part of our St Thomas' weekly Celebration assemblies and through our online Art Gallery on Pebblepad
- ✚ Artist workshops and gallery trips are provided to enhance and enrich the children's Art learning
- ✚ Children at St Thomas' enjoy using a wide selection of our school library books, where they can sit, read and be inspired by Art through different cultures, movements and time periods.

## Impact

The teaching of Art is of the highest quality at St Thomas'. Children's progress is assessed informally during each lesson, and summatively through end of unit final pieces and pupil discussions. As part of the St Thomas' feedback policy, verbal feedback is given to the children regularly and over the shoulder marking happens where necessary so that immediate feedback can be given and acted upon. Children are assessed against the Teacher Assessment Frameworks (TAFs) to identify any gaps that children have in their learning to inform future planning. TAFs support the long term assessment that teachers make at the end of each academic year. As a result, children make rapid and sustained progress with their technical skills and Art knowledge and they are passionate about their learning.

Sketchbooks, pictures, video and audio recordings reflect high quality outcomes. Children take ownership of their sketchbooks and with pride can talk confidently about their learning and can remember their learning from earlier within the year or from previous years. Our children understand that they are learning Art so that they can express themselves, regulate their emotions and learn about the wider world around them. Teaching of Art has a direct impact on our children's skills for not only the next stage of their education but also their future life opportunities.

Children will leave St. Thomas' as competent and enthusiastic artists that enjoy expressing their creativity both independently and collaboratively. Relevant 'great' artists and movements explored in their school journey will provide them with the inspiration to see Art and Design as a future career path. They will be equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to be creative and critical thinkers, confident as artists to apply their skills and knowledge and to respond critically to their own and other's work.