

# Art Curriculum at Bletchingley Village Primary School and Nursery

## Intent, Implementation and Impact

### Intent

At Bletchingley Village Primary School, our aim is to nurture pupils' creativity, imagination, and visual literacy, encouraging them to think like artists and designers. We intend for pupils to develop the confidence to experiment, express ideas, and communicate meaning through both visual and tactile media. By following the condensed curriculum, we ensure that all pupils receive full National Curriculum coverage while focusing on the most essential knowledge and skills.

The curriculum is designed as a spiral curriculum, meaning pupils return to key knowledge and skills repeatedly, building upon prior foundations with increasing complexity. In Art and Design, we focus on four key areas: Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, and Craft and Design. Our intent is to develop three specific types of knowledge:

- Practical knowledge: The hands-on skills and techniques used to create art and products.
- Theoretical knowledge: Understanding the history of artists and designers, art movements, and cultural contexts.
- Disciplinary knowledge: Understanding how to study, discuss, and evaluate art through critical reflection.

### Implementation

To manage curriculum time effectively, our school uses the condensed long-term plan, alternating between Art and Design and Design and Technology every half term. This structure allows for focused, deep-dive units that meet all statutory requirements.

The curriculum is delivered through five key strands that run through every unit: Generating ideas, Using sketchbooks, Making skills, Knowledge of artists, and Evaluating and analysing. Each lesson follows a rigorous structure to support knowledge retention:

- Recap and recall: Activities to activate prior learning and reinforce long-term memory.
- Attention grabber: A short task to hook pupils and spark curiosity.
- Main event: Teacher modelling and guided practice to develop specific learning objectives.
- Wrapping up: A reflective activity to consolidate learning and assess understanding.

Teachers are supported by CPD videos and clear lesson plans to build their subject knowledge and pedagogical confidence, ensuring high-quality delivery even for non-specialists. Furthermore, Knowledge organisers are used to provide pupils with a visual reference for key vocabulary and essential facts.

### Impact

The impact of our curriculum is monitored through a combination of formative and summative assessment. Teachers use real-time questioning, observation, and discussion to gauge understanding and adapt lessons accordingly. Key indicators of impact include:

- Sketchbooks: These serve as a primary record of the pupil's creative journey, documenting the exploration of ideas and the refinement of techniques rather than just final pieces.
  - Unit Quizzes: Summative assessments at the end of each unit to measure the retention of key knowledge and skill.
  - Pupil Voice: Opportunities for children to articulate their choices, critique their work, and demonstrate their understanding of the creative world.
  - Written Outcomes: Tangible evidence of progress through annotated diagrams and structured written reflections.
- Ultimately, our curriculum ensures that all pupils, including those with SEND, can access and succeed in their learning, developing from early sensory exploration to technical proficiency and personal expression.