



St Dennis Primary Academy – Art



“Every child is an artist.” – Pablo Picasso

Our children are encouraged to question the way in which the world works within our own society and that of other cultures. For example, children’s work exploring Egyptian and African Art use a visual language in response to beliefs and tradition and this aids the promotion of the spiritual growth of our pupils. In our art lessons, pupils are given opportunities and resources to investigate the subjects deeper, which in turn deepens their own understanding. Through our milestones for progression, pupils are introduced to the work of great artists (classic and modern) and experience wonder and awe at the achievements of these great works of art. This helps to promote the belief that pupils can communicate their own ideas, meanings and feelings in their own artworks.

All children are given equal opportunities to a wide range of arts experiences that they may not otherwise experience. Art and Design frequently requires pupils to work in pairs or groups, this enables them to communicate and co-operate with each other for a common purpose.

During class discussions around themes in art, for example, projects involving WW2 artworks, or Ancient civilizations, pupils explore individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance from the past to the present. These experiences provide pupils with memories that they can take with them and develops their social, emotional and communications skills. The teaching of the arts helps our pupils to find alternate ways to express themselves and their feelings, whilst teaching them about social issues that many of our children encounter.



Art provides our children with the opportunities to explore their own understanding of matters relating to gender, race and other cultures. This happens through high quality lessons in visual art and design which are all linked to a wider culture in our society. In these lessons, pupils are encouraged to raise questions around moral issues and dilemmas and to show mutual respect and consideration when discussing progress and themes. Staff support pupils to develop their knowledge and views around such topics which in turn builds their own personal morals.

Art provides a worldwide form of communication through all cultures and our pupils understand this. All units of work link with contextual themes involving various cultures and civilizations from around the world such as African and Mayan arts and traditions. They lead to a greater understanding of different ways of life and a respect for cultures that differ from their own. The fusion of artwork from a range of cultures leads to our children incorporating designs, patterns and motifs in their own work thus developing a deeper understanding of our cultures within our own community and the wider world.