

Creative Arts Page Profile

Creative Arts at MCPA

Intent

At Manchester Communication Primary Academy (MCPA), we believe that high-quality Creative Arts provision should inspire children to think innovatively, develop creative procedural understanding and be fully inclusive of every child.

We believe that, as children progress through their learning, they should be able to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of the Creative Arts. Children should understand how art and design both reflect and shape our history and contribute to the future, creativity and development of society and the world around us.

Through the study of specific artists and designers, teaching staff are able to make tangible links between the Creative Arts and the wider curriculum. Our curriculum ensures that a broad range of artists and designers are studied, including individuals who represent a range of protected characteristics, enabling children to see themselves and others reflected within their learning.

In all Creative Arts subjects, children are expected to be reflective and evaluate their work, considering how they can make changes and continue to improve. We strive for this to be a meaningful and continuous process that becomes increasingly pupil-led and evidences developmental verbal and written reflection.

Our Creative Arts curriculum introduces and teaches key skills, materials and stimulus in ways that encourage pupils to explore their own creativity. By creating a safe and nurturing environment, pupils are encouraged to take creative risks, develop resilience and learn from the creative journey rather than focusing entirely on the end destination.

Implementation

We use the National Curriculum to deliver weekly Art and Design Technology (DT) lessons at MCPA, with a clear sequence of learning throughout the school and regular opportunities for recapping and retrieval. This ensures that learning is deep, progressive and transferable from year to year.

Each year group studies three Art units and three DT units during the academic year.

Our Creative Arts curriculum is supported by AccessArt, which provides high-quality resources, ideas and approaches that support teachers in developing children's artistic skills, creativity and understanding. AccessArt is used alongside our carefully sequenced curriculum to provide teachers with a range of creative processes, techniques and starting points, while ensuring that learning remains appropriately challenging and accessible for all pupils.

Early Years

Pupils explore and use a variety of media and materials through a combination of child-initiated and adult-directed activities. They have opportunities to learn to:

- Explore the textures, movement, feel and look of different media and materials.
- Respond to a range of media and materials and develop their understanding of them in order to manipulate and create different effects.
- Use different media and materials to express their own ideas.
- Explore colour and use it for a particular purpose.
- Develop skills to use simple tools and techniques competently and appropriately.
- Select appropriate media and techniques and adapt their work where necessary.
- Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others.
- Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them.

Skills and knowledge are revisited throughout EYFS, ensuring that learning is understood at an appropriate developmental level. This enables gaps to be identified and addressed and ensures that all children make progress

through the curriculum.

Years 1–6

Pupils are taught:

- To use a range of materials creatively to design and make products that respond to a given design brief.
- About the work of a range of artists and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines and making links to their own work.
- To use their sketchbooks to record observations, develop ideas and review and revisit their work.
- To improve their mastery of Art and Design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture, using a range of materials such as pencil, charcoal, paint and clay.
- Key vocabulary and skills explicitly, enabling pupils to talk confidently about processes, techniques, artists and their own creative decisions.
- To evaluate and reflect on their work throughout the creative process, rather than only at the end of a unit.

Here at MCPA, we believe that all children should thrive in all aspects of their learning and therefore work hard to break down barriers to participation. This includes planning ahead and identifying curriculum adaptations that need to be made to ensure that every child is able to access and participate meaningfully in every lesson. Half-termly subject speed-dating sessions with the Curriculum Leader and SENDCo support teachers in identifying appropriate adaptations and sharing effective practice.

Children are assessed throughout each lesson, and this informs future teaching. For example, misconceptions or gaps in knowledge can be addressed at the beginning of subsequent lessons. Teachers use ongoing assessment to identify pupils who require additional support or challenge.

Parents are kept informed about their child's progress in Creative Arts through reports, parents' evenings and showcases.

Pupils' artwork is displayed and celebrated within classrooms and throughout the school. Whole-school projects ensure that Creative Arts is given a high status within the curriculum. This includes the school's annual **CollaboART**, which provides an additional opportunity for pupils to develop, celebrate and share their artistic skills and knowledge.

Impact

We strive to create a safe, supportive and inclusive ethos for learning for all our children.

As a result of our Creative Arts curriculum, we want children to:

- Be willing to take creative risks and demonstrate resilience when developing their work.
- Understand the design and making process.
- Develop and apply a growing range of artistic and design skills.
- Know how artists and designers have influenced and impacted upon the world in which we live.
- Know about a diverse range of significant artists and designers.
- Demonstrate creativity, curiosity and exploration.
- Use appropriate creative vocabulary to discuss their learning.
- Be reflective and evaluate their work throughout their learning journey.
- Make informed choices about materials, techniques and processes.
- Build upon previous knowledge and skills and apply them independently.
- Develop confidence in expressing their own creative ideas.

Research

Although research into creativity and learning continues to develop, evidence suggests that participation in the arts can support children's cognitive, social and emotional development. A broad education that includes the arts provides children with opportunities to develop forms of thinking, expression and problem-solving that complement learning across the wider curriculum. The continued development of our society also depends upon individuals who are able to think creatively, critically and innovatively.

At MCPA, we recognise the importance of evidence-informed teaching approaches within Creative Arts. Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction are reflected in our approach through strategies such as Daily Review, presenting new

material in small steps, providing models, guided practice and independent practice.

We implement these principles within Art and DT by:

- Reviewing previously taught artistic concepts, vocabulary and techniques.
- Introducing new skills and processes in manageable steps.
- Providing clear teacher demonstrations and visual examples.
- Using models and exemplars to help pupils understand techniques and processes.
- Providing guided opportunities for pupils to practise new skills.
- Gradually moving pupils towards independent creative application.
- Checking understanding throughout lessons and addressing misconceptions.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect, evaluate and improve their work.

Our use of AccessArt complements this evidence-informed approach by providing teachers with high-quality creative processes, teaching ideas and professional resources. These support teachers in modelling techniques, developing pupils' creative thinking and providing meaningful opportunities for experimentation, exploration and independent decision-making.

Together, our curriculum structure, evidence-informed teaching approaches and AccessArt support ensure that Creative Arts at MCPA is progressive, inclusive, ambitious and accessible to every child.