

Art at Clifton Primary School.

Subject lead: Emily Smith

Impact and rationale

The intention for the art curriculum at Clifton Primary School is to inspire the children, and equip them with the knowledge and skills to be confident to experiment, invent and create at each stage of their primary education.

The children will be shown different approaches of art starting in Nursery all the way through to Year 6; each year building their skills and knowledge of drawing, painting, print making, ceramics and creative craft, in line with National Curriculum requirements. By choosing these mediums, it gives the children a foundation of skills and techniques; exposing them to ideas and concepts to help them become creative learners, which in turn will enable to children to understand and celebrate the creativity and uniqueness of each other. This will give children the ability to use the language of art, craft and design as it will have been embedded from the start of their time at Clifton.

By the time children enter years 5 and 6, new strands are introduced - Photography in Year 5 and Graphic Design in Year 6. Through the scaffolding and learning the children have completed in their time through Clifton to this point, they will have the breadth of art appreciation, skills and the experience readying them to be exposed to Photography and Graphic Design. These strands being carefully selected to prepare them for continuing their artistic journey beyond their primary education.

In addition to this, by the end of their journey through our school, the children will have learnt about a wide variety of artists and their mediums, equipping them with the understanding of art history and the importance it has had shaping creativity and the wealth of our nation. At Clifton, we aim to develop and encourage the children to take risks and try new ideas and concepts, this is reinforced by their understanding of artists through history. In line with our focus on developing the children's oracy skills, the children are encouraged to question ideas and incorporate the language of art and approaches of artists use of different mediums, to create artwork independently during the inspiring lessons they have at school and beyond.

Implementation

At Clifton, all teachers have high expectations for learning in art lessons. The children are expected to make contributions in class discussions through open questioning and investigation of different mediums, depending on the artist focus. Through the children's time at Clifton, the teachers use the progression documents to build the children's knowledge and understanding of what art really is and what it means to each person individually. A recurring theme through the children's artistic journey is for teachers to encourage and nurture the concept that art is subjective, and the artwork the children create is flexible and without barriers. The children are encouraged to try and develop new

skills that will improve each year as their understanding deepens. At Clifton, we feel it is essential that children are given the feeling of freedom in art lessons to express themselves and teachers are there to give them the structure and confidence to do this.

To champion art at Clifton, each child has their own sketch book, which will be with them through their Clifton artistic journey. This gives them the artist research to look back on and remember their learning to use in further artwork they create in their continuing journey. By having individual sketch books, it allows them to see how their skills and approaches are developing into their own unique artistic identity and how errors and mistakes create a better artist.

The children are given the chance to work with local artists and art galleries in the local community. This exposes them to how artists work outside of the school environment, further inspiring them and giving the children opportunities that they would have not had prior to this. This differs from educational visits to art galleries and studios or for artists to come to school and work with the children through workshops and small sessions. By exposing them to the real artists and their artwork, it means that their standards for their own artwork are high therefore the end product they create gives them pride and satisfaction.