



Curriculum overview for parents and carers

Art and design 2026/27

A summary of key Art and design learning for Reception to Year 6.

| EYFS (Reception) | | | |
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| Drawing | Marvellous marks | Autumn lesson | Autumn wreaths Using natural items to create autumnal wreaths. |
| | Exploring mark making and using the language of texture, the children use wax crayons to make rubbings and chalk on different surfaces. They also use felt tips to explore colour and pencils to create observational drawings of their faces. | Christmas lesson | Salt dough decorations Creating and decorating Christmas tree decorations. |
| Painting and mixed media | Paint my world | Winter lesson | Threaded snowflakes Using threading skills to create snowflakes with pipe cleaners and beads. |
| | Creating child-led paintings using fingers and natural items as tools, the children learn that colours can be mixed and that paintings can be abstract or figurative. They also make collages and explore different techniques for using paint when creating splatter pictures. | Spring lesson | Suncatcher Collecting flower petals to create card suncatchers. |
| Sculpture and 3D | Creation station | Easter lesson | Egg threading Threading coloured wool to create an egg pattern. |
| | Manipulating playdough and clay to make animal sculptures and their own creations, the children begin to use language associated with forces. They also create natural landscape pictures using items found outdoors. | Summer lesson | Salt painting Creating bold paintings in salt and paint. |
| Craft and design | Let's get crafty | | |
| | Developing their skills in cutting, threading, manipulating and joining materials, the children focus on the creative process rather than the final product. They then apply these techniques to design and create a flower for a class garden display. | | |

| | Year 1 | Year 2 |
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| Drawing | Exploring line and shape | Understanding tone and texture |
| | Exploring line and shape through a range of materials and stimuli, with a focus on the work of Bridget Riley and Paul Klee. Pupils develop control and creativity by experimenting with expressive mark making and portrait drawing, using lines and shapes to improve accuracy. | Developing drawing skills by exploring and experimenting with a range of materials, pupils make marks that suggest texture, light and dark. They build drawings by sketching basic shapes and adding detail, producing a final observational piece that shows an emerging understanding of shading and texture. |
| Painting and mixed media | Learning about paint and brush control | Colour mixing |
| | Investigating colour and painting techniques through exploring the bright, clean use of colour in the work of Alma Thomas. Pupils develop control and confidence with paint, experiment with careful application techniques and learn how looking after materials affects the quality and vibrancy of their artwork. | Exploring colour theory by mixing primary colours to create secondary colours and building confidence when using paint. Pupils investigate the expressive use of colour in the work of Gillian Ayres and Frank Bowling before experimenting with different painting techniques to create a final piece in two stages. |
| Sculpture and 3D | Paper play | Clay houses |
| | Creating simple 3D shapes and structures using paper and card, inspired by the 'Tree of life' screen at the Sidi Saiyyed Mosque. Pupils manipulate materials by folding, rolling and scrunching to make sculptures, then collaborate on a larger piece influenced by Louise Bourgeois. | Developing their ability to work with clay, pupils learn how to create simple thumb pots and explore the work of sculptor Rachel Whiteread. Pupils apply her ideas in a final piece that uses techniques that include cutting, shaping, joining and impressing into clay. |
| Craft and design | Woven wonders | Map it out |
| | Developing fibre art skills such as plaiting, threading, knotting and weaving. Inspired by the work of Cecilia Vicuña, pupils apply these techniques to create three-dimensional woven artworks, experimenting with materials and structure. | Responding to a design brief, pupils create a piece of art that represents their local area using a map as their stimulus. They learn techniques for working creatively with materials and evaluate their design ideas based on the brief. |

| | Year 3 | Year 4 |
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| Drawing | <p>Developing drawing skills</p> <p>Developing drawing skills through observation, shape and tone, pupils practise drawing objects using simple shapes, building even tones with pencil and adding detail by observing pattern and texture. They apply these skills in imaginative plant drawings and recreate their ideas as digital artwork.</p> | <p>Exploring tone, texture and proportion</p> <p>Exploring tone, texture and proportion to create realistic and expressive drawings, inspired by artists Sarah Graham, Nicola McBride and Beatriz Milhazes. Pupils develop skills in shading, mark-making and composition using sweets, wrappers and bold patterns to produce detailed drawings with a strong sense of form and proportion.</p> |
| Painting and mixed media | <p>Exploring texture with paint and collage</p> <p>Developing painting and collage skills through creating textured materials and experimenting with techniques such as cutting, tearing and layering. Pupils explore warm and cool colours, investigate the work of Romare Bearden and design a painted collage based on their own ideas and observations.</p> | <p>Light and dark</p> <p>Investigating the use of tone in art through studying how artists use highlights, midtones and shadows to create the illusion of form. Pupils practise colour mixing by creating tints and shades, consider how light affects mood and appearance and explore elements of compositions to produce a painted still life.</p> |
| Sculpture and 3D | <p>Abstract shape and space</p> <p>Examining how shapes and negative spaces can be represented by three dimensional forms. Manipulating a range of materials, pupils learn ways to join and create free-standing structures inspired by the work of Anthony Caro and Ruth Asawa.</p> | <p>Mega materials</p> <p>Exploring how different materials can be shaped and joined to create sculpture, inspired by artists including Barbara Hepworth and Sokari Douglas-Camp. Pupils also investigate a range of sculptural techniques before designing and creating their own three-dimensional artwork.</p> |
| Craft and design | <p>Ancient Egyptian scrolls</p> <p>Investigating the way colour, scale and pattern influenced ancient Egyptian art, pupils explore the technique of papermaking to create a papyrus-style scroll. Ideas are extended to create a modern response by designing a 'zine'.</p> | <p>Fabric of nature</p> <p>Using the flora and fauna of tropical rainforests as a starting point, pupils develop drawings through experimentation and textile-based techniques to design a repeating pattern suitable for fabric.</p> |

| | Year 5 | Year 6 |
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| Drawing | Depth, emotion and movement | Expressing ideas |
| | Investigating how drawing can express emotion, movement and depth, inspired by the work of Charlie Mackesy and Elizabeth Catlett. Pupils use expressive lines, shading and printmaking techniques to develop compositions that convey feeling and energy before creating a final piece influenced by their own ideas and the artists studied. | Exploring how drawing can be used to express ideas and messages, inspired by a range of street art examples and environmental themes. Pupils investigate how artists use perspective, scale and proportion to create impact before designing and creating a street-art-inspired final piece that communicates a message about sustainability and the environment. |
| Painting and mixed media | Expressive portraits | World in watercolour |
| | Examining self-portraits by a range of artists to understand how colour, composition, materials and expression can communicate identity, personality and emotion. Pupils use photographs of themselves as inspiration to create mixed-media self-portraits, making thoughtful artistic choices and adapting techniques to produce a final piece. | Examining how artists respond to the natural world through using watercolour techniques, sketchbooks and observational studies. Pupils experiment with composition, colour and light, refining their control of watercolour before creating a final personal composition inspired by the natural environment. |
| Sculpture and 3D | Interactive installation | Making memories |
| | Inspired by historical monuments and modern installations, pupils plan by researching and drawing a sculpture to fit a design brief. They investigate scale, the display environment and possibilities for viewer interaction with their piece. | Reflecting on primary school memories through sculpture and assemblage using found objects and hand-sculpted forms. Pupils select meaningful objects and materials before designing and creating a personal memory box with symbolic and personal significance. |
| Craft and design | Architecture | Photo opportunity |
| | Investigating the built environment through drawing and printmaking, inspired by the work of architects and artists including Zaha Hadid and Hundertwasser. Pupils research architectural design, explore symbolism in monuments and apply their understanding to create and present their own building designs and artistic responses. | Exploring photography as a medium for expressing ideas, pupils investigate scale and composition, colour and techniques for adapting finished images. They use digital media to design and create photographic imagery for a specific design brief. |