

THE INDEPENDENT GRAMMAR SCHOOL: DURHAM

Art Curriculum Overview - Middle School (Years 5-8)

Core Knowledge UK (Civitas) / Art Curriculum Whole School Curriculum Map

Year Group	Michaelmas 1	Michaelmas 2	Lent 1	Lent 2	Trinity 1	Trinity 2
Year 5	Portraits and Proportion; Facial Features; Expressing Personality	Printing and Mixed Media; Collage Techniques; Layering and Texture	Painting and Colour; Acrylic Techniques; Expressive Painting	Sculpture and Assemblage; Using Recycled Materials; Environmental Art	Artists from Around the World; Cultural Art Forms; Art and Identity	Independent Project; Planning and Creating; Evaluating Artwork
Year 6	Advanced Drawing; Tone, Shade and Texture; Still Life and Observation	Printmaking and Design; Etching and Linocut; Visual Communication	Painting and Composition; Colour Theory; Personal Expression	Sculpture and Form; Wire and Mixed Media; Conceptual Art	Art History and Analysis; Exploring Art Movements; Critical Response	Final Project; Portfolio Development; Presentation and Evaluation
Year 7	Develop core drawing skills using line, tone, shape and texture. Explore observation from still life, natural and man-made forms.	Experiment with a range of media including pencil, pen, colour, paint, collage and print. Learn how to use materials safely and effectively.	Explore the work of artists, craft makers and designers from different times and cultures. Understand how art communicates ideas and emotions.	Develop ideas through sketchbooks and experimentation. Create personal responses and realise final outcomes with increasing confidence.	Learn to analyse and evaluate artwork, including your own. Use subject vocabulary to reflect on progress and set targets for improvement.	Consolidation, independent creative work and reflection across drawing, media, ideas and outcomes.
Year 8	Build on drawing skills with focus on proportion, tone, perspective and composition. Explore more complex observational studies.	Develop skills in a wider range of media including paint, mixed media, print, clay and digital media. Explore techniques and intentional mark-making.	Investigate artists and movements in depth. Explore themes, symbols and visual language in contemporary and historic art and design.	Plan and develop ideas through research and experimentation. Refine techniques and produce considered, purposeful artwork and projects.	Critically evaluate artwork and processes. Use art terminology confidently to reflect on strengths, areas for development and creative choices.	Consolidation and independent project work, bringing together observation, media, contextual understanding and evaluation.

Curriculum Intent

- Inspire creativity and imagination
- Develop technical skills and artistic techniques
- Explore the work of artists, craftspeople and designers
- Build cultural understanding and appreciation
- Encourage self-expression and confident risk-taking
- Follow a coherent, cumulative sequence of knowledge and skills

Document Owner: Art Lead

Implementation

- Art is taught through high-quality lessons using Core Knowledge Art & Design textbooks (Civitas)
- Pupils explore a wide range of media, techniques and processes
- Sketchbooks are used to develop ideas, practise skills and record learning
- Cross-curricular links enrich and deepen learning
- Key vocabulary and knowledge are explicitly taught and revisited
- Pupils reflect, evaluate and improve their work

Review Cycle: Annual

Impact

- Develop a wide range of artistic skills and techniques
- Create original, imaginative and high-quality artwork
- Know about great artists, craftspeople and designers
- Evaluate and improve their own and others' work
- Take pride in their achievements
- Be prepared for further learning in art and beyond

Date: _____