

## **Art and design at Shaw**

Art, craft and design embody some of the highest forms of human creativity. This is what we aim to nurture at Shaw. In every year group children are given regular opportunities to learn new techniques or practice existing skills in order to improve. They are equipped with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design. The wonderful Shaw grounds and locality provide a fantastic inspiration when looking at art in the natural world. Through the key stages, children are given the opportunity to find out about famous artists from the past who have shaped history as well as current artists influencing the world today.



**WHY** do we teach this subject? (What does it add to the education of each child?)

Art is an enormous subject, covering a vast array of media. Art is all around us, in the environment, online and in our homes. An appreciation of art can enrich our lives, promote thinking and discussion and even aid mental well-being. Creating a piece of artwork can be a rewarding experience. Creating artwork can enable children to communicate ideas and feelings on many levels. Creating artwork also requires resilience, the mastery of skills and creativity. We teach children to view art as a “visual language.”

At Shaw, we use art as a vehicle for expression, as a subject where specific skills and techniques can be mastered and as a means of adding creativity and variety in communication when studying other topics and subjects.

By exploring these ideas and skills in school, we are able to provide high quality experiences for all children including those who may not have had the opportunity to visit art galleries, workshops or art installations outside of school.

**WHAT** do we teach? – essential characteristics, knowledge and skills. Specific topics/ areas.

- How to draw confidently and adventurously from observation, memory or imagination
- How to use visual language skilfully to convey thoughts and feelings.
- How to explore and invent marks and objects in a variety a media, communicating perceptively and powerfully through 2D, 3D or digital media.
- A knowledge and understanding of other artists, crafts people and designers and an ability to use this as an inspiration for their own work.

**What are our end-points? What knowledge, skills and understanding do we want children to have on leaving Shaw School?**

- The ability to use visual language skilfully and convincingly to express emotions, interpret observations, convey insights and accentuate their individuality.
- The ability to communicate fluently in visual and tactile form.
- The ability to draw confidently and adventurously from observation, memory and imagination.
- The ability to explore and invent marks, develop and deconstruct ideas and communicate perceptively and powerfully through purposeful drawing in 2D, 3D or digital media.
- A knowledge and understanding of the work of other artists, craftsmakers and designers.
- Independence, initiative and originality which they can use to develop their creativity.
- The ability to select and use materials, processes and techniques skilfully.
- The ability to reflect on, analyse and critically evaluate their own work and that of others.
- A passion for the subject.