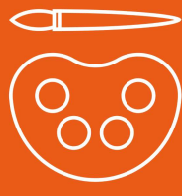


Curriculum overview for parents and carers

Art and design 2026/27

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



	Year 1	Year 2
Drawing	Exploring line and shape 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.	Understanding tone and texture 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 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.	Colour mixing 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 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.	Clay houses 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	Not included in the condensed scheme.	Not included in the condensed scheme.

	Year 3	Year 4
Drawing	Developing drawing skills 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.	Exploring tone, texture and proportion 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.
Painting and mixed media	Not included in the condensed scheme.	Light and dark Investigating the use of tone in art by 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.
Sculpture and 3D	Abstract shape and space 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.	Not included in the condensed scheme.
Craft and design	Ancient Egyptian scrolls 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'.	Fabric of nature 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.

	Year 5	Year 6
Drawing	Depth, emotion and movement 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.	Expressing ideas 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 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.	Not included in the condensed scheme.
Sculpture and 3D	Interactive installation 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.	Making memories 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	Not included in the condensed scheme.	Photo opportunity 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.