



The CofE Federated Schools of St Mary's and St Saviour's



Artsmark Policy

Ratified: Summer 2017 Reviewed: Every 2 years
Next review: Summer 2019

Expectations

- At St Saviour's and St Mary's schools we believe that exposure to the arts inside and outside of the curriculum is an essential part of pupils' learning and individual development.
- In both schools we understand the importance of the arts: drama, music, dance, and art, craft and design as vehicles to support this development. Whatever a pupil's background, experience or academic achievements, we are firmly committed to providing a broad experience of the arts to all. Furthermore, each discipline has been proven to aid the teaching and learning of both core and foundation subjects across all year groups.
- In recent years we have placed an emphasis on providing children in both schools with a rich and varied creative curriculum that engages all learners. The use of the arts is integral to this teaching and learning. Both schools have and continue to provide out-of-hours opportunities in which pupils can learn and develop skills in many aspects of the arts.

Aims

- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum that provides exposure to all aspects of the arts.
- The arts within the curriculum will be provided to all pupils equally, regardless of gender, ability or financial background.
- To entwine arts offerings with the Christian ethos and values of the schools. For example, church services and school worship assemblies.
- To provide a wide range of learning opportunities, from the arts, in curriculum time to workshops and visits facilitated by arts professionals.
- To provide all parents with the opportunity to experience and celebrate pupils' achievements in the arts.
- To make use of teachers with specialist skills, for example, professional musicians and actors to enable the teaching of the arts as discrete subjects and to enhance the quality of arts related projects.
- To make use of available continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities, for all teaching staff.
- To facilitate visits to performances, museums and exhibitions outside of school
- To work in partnership with arts specialists in the effective delivery of the curriculum or collapsed curriculum days.
- To enable the local community to benefit from school arts projects wherever possible.

Planning and Provision

- To provide a curriculum that embeds and uses the arts to further learning, progress and enthusiasm. Where possible the schools' provision will provide and inspire meaningful cross-curricular links.
- Inclusion of the arts in core and foundation subject time is supplemented by visits to and from professionals.
- Curriculum arts provision is complemented by out-of-hours clubs and visits, for example, street dance and orchestra clubs, and also visits to concerts that inspire interest and individual development.
- There is an expectation for staff and pupils to share their success in the arts through class displays, assemblies or online. In addition, 'fabulous finish' afternoons provide opportunities for parents and families to celebrate the work achieved (by Key Stages 1 and 2) at the end of a term's topic focus.
- To provide opportunities (from Year 3) for pupils to take part in one-to-one or small group specialist music lessons, for example, the learning of the flute, violin or keyboard. Lessons will be offered for at least two terms a year. Lessons will act either as an introduction to the learning of new instruments or as an extension to skills acquired in a previous academic year or outside of school. Where possible, pupils in these classes will be provided with performance opportunities.
- To ensure that one-to-one or small group afternoon music tuition and out-of-hours learning opportunities are subsidised for low-income families.
- To provide opportunities for all pupils (Foundation stage, KS1 and KS2) to visit or be visited by theatre groups or musicians at least once a year.
- The Federation has a specialist music teacher who provides dedicated music lessons to all classes at some point in the academic year.

Christian Values

- Each school has a set of Christian values that are woven into the fabric of a pupil's learning journey. The senior leadership team and teaching staff in the Federation will continue to ensure that the arts can support pupils' spiritual and academic development from Early Years to Key Stage 2.
- In class, worship assemblies, church services/Mass and end of term performances, children are encouraged to employ and learn arts related skills that can enhance not only their individual and collective performance, but also their understanding and appreciation of a given Christian festival or theme.