



## **The Aims and Intention of Art**

*"Art and Design is not just a subject to learn, but an activity you can practise: with your hands, your eyes, your whole personality"* (Quentin Blake, Children's Laureate)

At Alton Infant School, we value Art and Design as an important and fundamental part of our children's entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum. Our mission is to engage, inspire and challenge our children, and equip them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design.

We believe that Art is an inclusive subject that promotes creativity and curiosity for all children. A subject that should be stimulating and enjoyable for all, allowing expression through a piece of artwork, whether it be individual or collaborative. We want the children of AIS to have the confidence and freedom to experiment with their own ideas using different mediums. By using sketchbooks, the children have the opportunity to evaluate, analyse and re-visit past works and learn to build resilience by making and learning from their mistakes.

Ultimately, our intention for Art is that when children leave Alton Infant School, they have a passion for the subject, a basic set of skills in drawing and painting, sculpture, textiles, print-making and ICT; an appreciation of work by a range of artists and a curious nature meaning that they are capable of producing a piece of creative artwork which they and others can be proud of.

## **The Implementation of Art**

At Alton Infant School, the Art curriculum is taught via Art objectives through Topic based lessons. Art units are taught at different points throughout the academic year.

In the Foundation Stage, Art is accessed through the ELGs Expressive Arts and Design (Creating with Materials) and Physical Development (Fine Motor Skills). The children are encouraged to explore and use a range of materials and media through a combination of child-initiated and adult led activities and experiences, which primarily focus upon the children's own interests. The children are invited to use their imagination, to develop their own ideas and produce their own individual pieces of artwork, both indoor and outdoor - the messier the better! We encourage the children to explore different textures (the look, the feel, the movement) and to develop their understanding of manipulation to get a material to do what they want. The children are invited to investigate basic colour and its use for a particular purpose. Throughout the

EYFS, the children are also given the opportunities to develop the skills needed to use simple tools confidently, and to try new techniques in an appropriate manner.

As the children transition from EYFS into KS1, they begin their Art journey in Year 1 where they explore sculpture with natural objects, using the works of Richard Long as inspiration. From this, the children then build upon their knowledge of colour, specifically looking at hot and cold colours, again using the works of a famous artist as inspiration - this time Van Gogh. At the end of the year, the children then explore the life of Henri Rousseau and produce pieces of artwork influenced by his works and techniques he used. Alongside all this, the children are also constantly exploring techniques for making marks, lines, shapes and forms, building upon those foundation skills obtained in EYFS.

When our children reach Year 2, they revisit the skills and techniques introduced in Year 1 through the topics Besides the Sea, Disasters and Big Adventures. The children then move onto looking at printing, using their topic of India as stimuli.

Throughout each term, our children build upon their drawing and painting skills and then move onto another Art and Design element. We encourage our children to feel confident to express themselves and produce high-quality pieces of work in a range of media that they can be proud of.

Alton Infant School uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in Art lessons in order to develop children's knowledge, skills and understanding. We provide a curriculum that is practical and inclusive, enabling all children to participate in meaningful activities where they are encouraged to talk about their ideas, and to reflect upon their own and other's work in a constructive way. Children are given the opportunity to work independently, in pairs and with other children in group scenarios. They are supported with their choices of materials and resources, and are guided in how to use tools and equipment safely and responsibly.

To encourage individual flair and imagination, activities set are creative which each child can access and complete at their own level. Under skilful guidance, explanations that are clear, modelling and scaffolding of learning, our children will become happy, successful learners.

### **The Impact of Art**

At Alton Infant School, our mission is to ensure that all our children's attainment is in line or exceeds their own potential, especially when we consider the varied starting points of the children when they start their AIS journey. We want the children to show enjoyment and confidence in Art, to develop a love of creativity. As a school, we strive for the children to appreciate and have a good knowledge of the life and works of a range of famous artists, and for them to be able to discuss how these works influence their own artistic skills.

In our school, we can judge the success of our Art curriculum in a variety of ways:

- A clear progression of skills
- Pupil Conferencing - are the children happy and engaged? Are they motivated to do well? Do they children feel challenged? Can they express their opinions about Art as a whole subject? Do the children know the names of famous artists and their works?
- Sketchbooks - do they show a clear learning journey? Is there a clear progression of skills? Are there opportunities for revisiting past work?
- Lesson drop ins.
- An Art subject manager who has passion for the subject, and can clearly discuss and articulate the progression of skills from EYFS through into KS1.