



## Art Curriculum Intent Statement



At Westacre Middle School, we aim to foster a life-long love of learning, through adopting a practical and cross curricular approach. Our Creative Curriculum aims to deliver a world class education that will equip our children with the skills required to be independent and responsible citizens. The curriculum matches our whole school vision, which fosters an atmosphere of inspiration, challenge and achievement. “Inspire. Challenge. Achieve”.

### Why do we teach Art?

Art supports personal, social, moral, spiritual, cultural and creative development, and enables children to engage with and explore visual, tactile and other sensory experiences. These opportunities enable them to work with traditional and new media, so that they develop confidence, competence, imagination and creativity. Art provides children with regular opportunities to think imaginatively and creatively and develop confidence in other subjects and life skills and develop a life-long appreciation. In life ‘knowing how’ is just as important as ‘knowing that’.

### Key Concepts in Art

Key concepts tie together the subject topics into meaningful schema within our skills progression maps. The same concepts are explored in a wide breadth of topics across all year groups. Through this ‘forwards-and-backwards engineering’ of the curriculum, students return to the same concepts over and over and gradually build understanding of them. In Art, the key concepts are research and respond, explore media, record and realise intentions.

### Knowledge Categories in Art

Knowledge categories in each subject give students a way of expressing their understanding of the key concepts and linking their learning across the year groups. In Art, the knowledge categories are inspirational people, styles and periods, careers, media and materials, colour theory, techniques, effects, health and safety, visual language, analyse and evaluate.

### SMSC links

Spiritual – children are taught to appreciate artworks and understand how to interact with these. During the school’s Well-Being Time, children begin to understand how art can be therapeutic and bring them to a single point of focus. This can then be applied to Art lessons where children experience the same level of focus.

Moral - children are encouraged to look at work or artists that will often pose a moral question. The pupil’s outcomes are supported with a rationale or a meaning that may sometimes convey a message.

Social - we encourage independent thinking and communication that will enable children to develop their ideas and intentions and express these in an appropriate manner. Children have regular opportunities to explore the social aspect of art and communication between artist and viewer.

Cultural - throughout the units of work, children will develop their knowledge and understanding of artist’s ideas and concepts identifying how meanings are conveyed. Children will be exposed to a wide variety of cultures and beliefs and will be encouraged to celebrate similarities and differences. Children will be taught to celebrate and recognise the need for galleries and the enriching opportunities they bring to society.

### Curriculum Drivers

How we promote Diversity in Art – the curriculum has been designed to provide a broad range of artists and knowledge of the way different cultures express themselves through art. Examples of this include a range of artists from across the world such as Esther Mangulu, a range of artists from India, a local artist, Rosie Philpott, a Finnish printmaker, Maarit Hänninen, as well as a range of traditional artists.

How we promote Communication in Art- talking about art is at the forefront of all lessons. Children are offered opportunities to question and discuss. This includes the use of ‘art galleries’ or virtual ‘visits’ to galleries within the planning of lessons.

How we promote Aspirations in Art- throughout their time at Westacre, pupils are exposed to a range of different artists, both working today and across time. This provides a range of different ways of working as well as potential careers. This includes printmaker, photographer, street artist, portrait artist, and landscape artist.