

Art at Menston Primary School

At Menston Primary School we believe that teaching and learning in art is important because it stimulates creativity, imagination and inventiveness. The purpose of art education is to give pupils the skills, concepts and knowledge necessary for them to express responses to ideas and experiences, in a visual or tactile form. It fires their imagination and is a fundamental means of personal expression.

We ensure our art curriculum engages, inspires and challenges our pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design.

“Art is not just a subject to learn, but an activity that you can practise with your hands, your eyes, your whole personality.”

Quentin Blake, Children’s Laureate

Children study a range of sculptures and artists, and are encouraged to comment and express an opinion upon these. We provide the opportunity to learn about the creative arts of different cultures and to explore the meanings and feelings evoked from hands-on and practical experiences.



Year 6 pupils' interpretation of a famous Van Gogh painting.



Year 6 wire sculptures on display at their end of topic celebration for parents.



Year 4 pupils used watercolour to recreate JMW Turner's famous Bolton Abbey landscape

Our curriculum develops pupils' technical art skills using a range of drawing, painting and sculpture. Children use a range of materials creatively to design and make products.

Strong links have been formed between Art, Design Technology, ICT and other subject areas, so that children can apply these skills within different contexts, and challenge and

extend their learning. We ensure clear progression throughout our curriculum and build upon pupil's skills year by year.



We provide opportunities for self-expression and a sense of personal achievement, celebrating and displaying pupil's art work throughout school. We enter local competitions and share our artwork across school.



A colourful display by Key Stage One Art Club.

Children also have the opportunity to extend their knowledge by working alongside artists and participating in after school clubs.



Mural created by Foundation pupils alongside local artist, Justin Leeming.

Observational Drawing

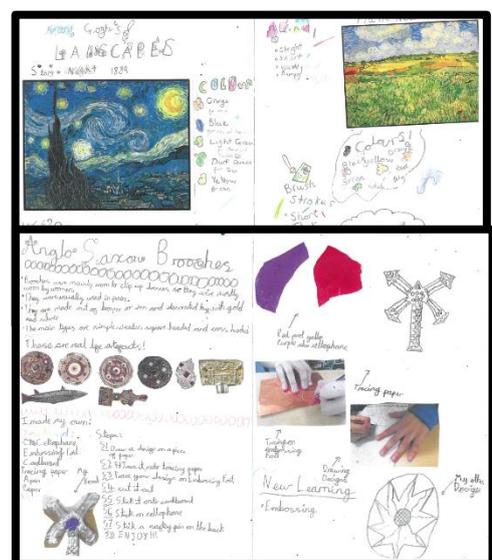
Throughout Menston Primary School, children develop their drawing skills, using both charcoal and pencils to sketch. Children work towards choosing the appropriate techniques i.e. line, shape, colour and space. As part of this, we focus closely on observational drawing and spend a lot of time outside. Each class has access to a resource kit, which includes one clipboard and one pack of sketching pencils per child. These have also proven very popular when doing cross-curricular artwork.



'Observational Drawing' and 'Outdoor Art' around school

Art and Design Sketchbooks

Since the introduction of the use of sketchbooks in the KS2 National Curriculum (see appendix 1), we have incorporated them into our creative curriculum at Menston Primary School. Every child from Year 1 to Year 6 has a sketchbook which is kept close to hand whenever we are creating, learning and developing new ideas. The sketchbook does not follow the school's presentation or marking policy; we feel very strongly that it belongs to the child. It's not just a book - it is a space where children can freely express, create, develop and learn, often with limited guidance from the teacher. The sketchbook should be at the centre of their creativity.



Creative Art Day

We hold an annual 'Creative Art Day', in which we focus on inspiring children about different areas of art. Both children and staff, love taking part in this. For the last few years, we have based the crafts around a Christmas and it has taken place on the last day of term. During the day, children are given opportunities to try different types of crafts and work alongside different ages.

What a wonderful way to finish the term!



All the children were happy with their finished crafts.

Aims

We aim to offer opportunities for children to

- foster an understanding and enjoyment of art, craft and design
- experience a broad and balanced range of art activities and show progression within these experiences
- show development of ideas and their own skills through the use of a sketchbook
- develop their ability to observe, investigate, respond to and record the world around them through a growing variety of forms and media
- develop use of a range of tools, media and processes
- develop an understanding of the work of artists, crafts people and designers and apply this knowledge to their own work
- provide opportunities for studying historical, cultural and religious art
- through art extend and enrich other curriculum areas.

At MPS, we recognise the significant impact that 'The Arts' can have on the promotion of:

- Identity
- Self-belief
- Enjoyment
- Pride
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Creativity

Miss J Williams (Art Leader)