

### Helping our children express themselves, explore creativity and understand the world through art

At Menston Primary School, our Art & Design curriculum inspires curiosity, creativity and self-expression. Rooted in our vision of *Making the world a better place*, pupils learn to communicate ideas, develop imagination and appreciate artistic traditions from a wide range of cultures, times and perspectives.

#### Our Vision

We aim to provide a rich, inclusive art education that enables every child to think, explore and create like an artist. Our curriculum is ambitious, accessible and carefully sequenced with a focus on high-quality curriculum design, progression and inclusion. Pupils develop the confidence to take creative risks, discuss art using appropriate vocabulary and value both the process and the final outcome.

#### What Art Looks Like at Menston

Art is taught from EYFS to Year 6 through a curriculum organised around five key aims:

- Generating ideas
- Making skills
- Knowledge of artists
- Evaluating and analysing
- Using sketchbooks



These aims run through four core artistic disciplines: **Drawing; Painting & Mixed Media; Sculpture & 3D;** and **Craft & Design**. These disciplines are revisited each year so that pupils build knowledge and skills progressively in a spiral curriculum.

Pupils explore a diverse range of artists, craft makers and designers. They learn how art reflects and shapes culture and history, in line with the National Curriculum. Sketchbooks play a central role, encouraging experimentation, reflection and the development of personal artistic voice.

#### Developing Substantive Knowledge

Substantive knowledge includes *materials, techniques, formal elements (line, tone, colour, shape, form, texture, pattern)* and understanding the work of artists from different cultures and time periods. Pupils build this knowledge through sequential experiences in drawing, painting, sculpting and craft that increase in complexity as they move through school.



#### Developing Disciplinary Knowledge

Disciplinary knowledge teaches pupils to *think like artists*; questioning, interpreting, reflecting, evaluating and discussing artwork using developing vocabulary. Pupils learn how to study and talk about art, how artists communicate meaning and how creative ideas develop through ongoing exploration and refinement. This aligns strongly with our emphasis on reasoning, subject-specific vocabulary and progression in disciplinary thinking.

### Linked to Our Curriculum Drivers

- **Equality, diversity and tolerance:** Pupils explore artists and makers from global cultures and diverse backgrounds, developing respect and appreciation for different perspectives.
- **Creativity and critical thinking:** Every unit encourages imagination, problem-solving and purposeful experimentation.
- **Global citizens:** Children learn how art responds to events, environments and cultural heritage, helping them understand art's impact on the world.
- **Future-thinking:** Links with technology, digital media and creative industries show pupils how art contributes to future careers and innovation.
- **Wellbeing:** Art provides a safe space for self-expression, reflection and emotional regulation, supporting the whole-school commitment to wellbeing.

### What Our Children Will Leave Knowing

By the end of Year 6, our pupils can:

- generate, develop and refine ideas using sketchbooks;
- apply a broad and secure range of drawing, painting, sculpting and mixed-media skills;
- talk confidently about artworks using appropriate artistic vocabulary;
- make connections between their work and that of diverse artists, designers and craftspeople;
- evaluate and improve their work through reflection, analysis and informed decision-making;
- combine creativity, technical skill and personal expression to produce thoughtful, original outcomes.

As a result, pupils leave Menston Primary as confident, reflective and imaginative young artists who are able to express themselves creatively, appreciate the richness of artistic traditions and use their skills to make a positive contribution to the world around them.

