



Learning and Teaching in the EYFS - What Art and Design Subject Leaders Need to Know

School Readiness Intent: At St Francis CE Primary School, we want our children to explore, design and present information. As artists, we will use experiences and ideas to inspire our art work. We will learn about the work of a range of different artists, artisans and designers. We will then explore a range of techniques to present our work.

EYFS Intent: Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage will be given the opportunity to explore the materials around them through continuous provision and quality first teaching. They will be able to explore, design and create using a variety of tools, materials and techniques. They will experiment with colour, line, shape and pattern.

The EYFS framework is structured very differently to the national curriculum as it is organised across seven areas of learning rather than subject areas. The aim of this document is to help subject leaders to understand how the skills taught across EYFS feed into national curriculum subjects. This document demonstrates which statements from the 2020 Development Matters are prerequisite skills for art within the national curriculum. The table below outlines the most relevant statements taken from the Early Learning Goals in the EYFS statutory framework and the Development Matters age ranges for Birth to Three, Three and Four-Year-Olds and Reception to match the programme of study for art.

The most relevant statements for art are taken from the following areas of learning:

- Physical Development
- Expressive Arts and Design

Art and Design Skills Progression Map



EYFS Stage	Areas of Learning	Development Matters	Implementation/ Context
Birth to Three Year Olds	Physical Development: Moving and handling - Fine motor skills	- Develop manipulation and control. - Explore different materials and tools.	Children will be provided with a variety of art materials such as chubby crayons, chubby chalks, chubby felts, paint and collage as well as 3D modelling using large wooden blocks and natural resources, stickle bricks, duplo, mega blocks and playdough.
Nursery	Expressive Arts and Design: Exploring media and materials	- Explore different materials, using all their senses to investigate them. Manipulate and play with different materials. - Use their imagination as they consider what they can do with different materials. - Make simple models which express their ideas. - Start to make marks intentionally. - Explore paint, using fingers and other parts of their bodies as well as brushes and other tools. - Express ideas and feelings through making marks, and sometimes give a meaning to the marks they make.	They will explore art through their environment and use natural resources to create pictures and begin to give meanings to their marks. Children will create drawings and are able to say or answer questions about what they are drawing. Children will be using/developing a fist grip or palmar supinate grasp.

Art and Design Skills Progression Map

EYFS Stage	Development Matters		Implementation/ Context
Three and Four Year Olds Nursery 	Physical Development	• Use large-muscle movements to wave flags and streamers, paint and make marks. • Choose the right resources to carry out their own plan. • Use one-handed tools and equipment, for example, making snips in paper with scissors. • Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.	Children will be given the opportunity to choose unusual or interesting materials and resources to enable them to explore colour, texture and space. They will explore colour through continuous provision and use different mediums such as pencils, crayons, felts, chubby chinks and crayons, paint and 3D sculpture using different modelling resources such as duplo, natural resources etc They will explore and learn about the art and techniques of different artists, such as Paul Klee, Mark Rothko, Wassily Kandinsky, Kawase Hasui, Native Australian Art, Henri Matisse, Claude Monet, Georgia O’Keeffe. Children will be using/developing a digital pronate grasp and moving to a four-finger grasp and deciding on a dominant hand. Children are beginning to develop their own ideas and beginning to explore different techniques using a variety of different resources.
	Expressive Arts and Design	• Explore different materials freely, in order to develop their ideas about how to use them and what to make. • Develop their own ideas and then decide which materials to use to express them. • Join different materials and explore different textures. • Create closed shapes with continuous lines, and begin to use these shapes to represent objects. • Draw with increasing complexity and detail, such as representing a face with a circle and including details. • Use drawing to represent ideas like movement or loud noises. • Show different emotions in their drawings and paintings, like happiness, sadness, fear, etc. • Explore colour and colour mixing.	



Art and Design Skills Progression Map

EYFS Stage	Areas of Learning	Development Matters	Implementation/ Context
Reception 	Physical Development	- Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. - Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor. - Develop overall body-strength, balance, coordination and agility.	Children will be given the opportunity to construct a variety of different products safely using different tools and media. Children will choose their own materials with a purpose in mind. They will be given the opportunity to share their ideas, and explain adaptations to work where necessary. Children will use a mixture of natural and man-made materials to explore and create new structures. They will explore mixing of colours and will use different mediums such as crayons, felts, chalks (fat and thin), paint, collage, sculpting and modelling, 3D sculpture with modelling resources with blocks, natural resources, lego etc. They will use a variety of pencils, pens, markers, chalks, charcoal etc for drawing and sketching whilst investigating the varying effects which can be made using these tools. The children will learn about some famous artists and explore their techniques, such as Picasso, Mondrian and Matisse. Children will be using/developing a four-finger grasp and moving on to a static tripod grasp. Children are developing ideas and techniques.
	Expressive Arts and Design	- Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings. - Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them. - Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills.	
EYFS Stage	Areas of Learning		Development Matters
Early Learning Goals 	Physical Development:	Fine Motor Skills	- Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing - using the tripod grip in almost all cases. - Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery. - Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.
	Expressive Art and Design:	Creating with Materials	- Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. - Share their creations, explaining the process they have used.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning and Teaching

Engagement: Playing and exploring • Finding out and exploring • Playing with what they know • Being willing to 'have a go' 	Motivation: Active Learning • Being involved and concentrating • Keeping trying • Enjoying achieving what they set out to do 	Thinking: Creating and thinking critically • Having their own ideas • Making links • Choosing ways to do things 
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