

Year 3 and 4
Art and Design Curriculum
Unit Overviews

Questions to Develop	Does everyone like the same art?
Children's Spirituality in Art:	Can art influence the way we feel?
	Can we communicate through art, sculptures, pictures etc?
	Do pictures have hidden meanings?
	Does each piece of artwork mean the same thing to each person who looks at it?
	Can God's creation be celebrated through artwork?
	When we create/are creative how does this reflect us being made in God's image?
	Do you think God made us as we are so that we can be creative and make wonderful, varied pieces of
	art?
Development of the child:	Questioning, emotion, wonder, self-awareness, appreciation and expression.

Topic: The Great Plague	Prior Knowledge/Links: 'Family Album' in Y1/2
(Y3/4)	'Faster, Higher, Stronger' in Y5/6 – creating human 3D form in sculpture
Subject: Art	Children should already know: Extensive drawing and painting to develop and improve
	observational skills of themselves and others (self-portraits).
National Curriculum	Key Knowledge and Vocabulary
Objectives	
Create sketch books to record	Know that skulls have long been used to represent ideas linked with death (Bills of Mortality,
observations and use them to	crypts).
review and revisit ideas.	Know that many artists have been inspired by the image of a skull (Damien Hirst, Jean Basquait,
Improve mastery of art and	Escher).
design techniques, including	Know that softer B pencils can be used for shading to create 3D effects.
drawing, painting and	Know how to draw a simplified image using a thin pencil on to foam for printmaking.
sculpture with a range of	Know how to use a roller to transfer paint onto a foam print, ready to transfer on to a page.
materials (pencil, charcoal,	Know that colour and background need to be considered when printmaking i.e. you would not
paint, clay).	use blue paint on a blue piece of paper.
Taught about great artists,	
architects and designers in	
history.	

Topic: Healthy Humans (Y3/4)	Prior Knowledge/Links: 'Fighting Fit' in Y1/2
Subject: Art	Children should already know:
	Drawing skills to develop 3D work and develop sculptures – making human figures from clay.
National Curriculum	Key Knowledge and Vocabulary
Objectives	
Create sketch books to record	Know that Claes Oldenburg creates textile food sculptures.
observations and use them to	Know that Renoir created still-life paintings of food.
review and revisit ideas.	Know how to work with different grades biro to make observational drawings of food and
Improve mastery of art and	packaging.
design techniques, including	Know any issues which may be encountered when working in 3D (number of panels, shapes of
drawing, painting and	sections, type of material).
sculpture with a range of	Know how to use paper-mache to manipulate making 3D food.
materials (pencil, charcoal,	Know how to use knives, brushes and wire-tipped tools to sculpt details.
paint, clay).	Know how to use fabrics such as hessian to add detail of surface textures.
Taught about great artists,	
architects and designers in	
history.	

Topic: Water, Water (Y3/4)	Prior Knowledge/Links: 'Growth and Green Fingers' in Y1/2
Subject: Art	'Survival' in Y5/6 – drawings and paintings of the natural world
	Children should already know: Detailed work of the natural world through close observations –
	develop drawings into paintings with watercolour.
National Curriculum	Key Knowledge and Vocabulary
Objectives	
Create sketch books to record	Know artists who have worked with the theme of water such as Constable, Hokusai and Monet.
observations and use them to	Know how to make observational drawings by using whole composition to zoom in on an area
review and revisit ideas.	of water.
Improve mastery of art and	Know smudging techniques when using pastels to create 3D effects.
design techniques, including	Know how to capture the flow and energy of water by painting watercolour directly onto a
drawing, painting and	picture surface.
sculpture with a range of	Know how to use watercolours and further work into a painting with dry media such as pastels
materials (pencil, charcoal,	to add depth and texture.
paint, clay).	Know how to layer tissue paper to explore a particular shape of water, using suitable shades
Taught about great artists,	together.
architects and designers in	
history.	

Topic: What the Romans Did	Prior Knowledge/Links: Buckets and Spades in Y1/2
for Us (Y3/4)	Children should already know: Drawing into collage and textile pieces – small/large scale
Subject: Art	collages using materials collected on a seaside theme.
National Curriculum	Key Knowledge and Vocabulary
Objectives	
Create sketch books to record	Know how the Romans decorated their villas with mosaic designs for floors and frescoed walls.
observations and use them to	Know that the House of Livia had a whole room that was painted as a garden with landscape
review and revisit ideas.	views.
Improve mastery of art and	Make a series of observational drawings of Roman Gods using fine pencil.
design techniques, including	Know how to design a simplified motif that can be transferred into a paper mosaic.
drawing, painting and	Know how to organise colour in a mosaic so that tiles are placed in the correct and appropriate
sculpture with a range of	places.
materials (pencil, charcoal,	Know that tiles in a mosaic need to be placed close to each so that there are minimal gaps.
paint, clay).	
Taught about great artists,	
architects and designers in	
history.	

Topic: Rock and Roll (Y3/4)	Prior Knowledge/Links: 'The Place Where I Live' in Y1/2 –
Subject: Art	Children should already know: Extensive drawing to manipulate improved images for
	printmaking – develop a simplified printing motif of the school or local area.
National Curriculum	Key Knowledge and Vocabulary
Objectives	
Create sketch books to record	Know printmakers such as Eric Gill and Japanese printmakers.
observations and use them to	Know that Robert Hooke was a palaeontologist that drew fossils.
review and revisit ideas.	Know how to use graphite sticks to create large scale drawings of fossils.
Improve mastery of art and	Know how to use a sharp pencil to draw a simplified image for printing.
design techniques, including	Know how the image for printing can be translated, rotated and repeatedly printed.
drawing, painting and	Know how to use rollers to print an image repeatedly.
sculpture with a range of	
materials (pencil, charcoal,	
paint, clay).	
Taught about great artists,	
architects and designers in	
history.	

Topic: The Art of Food (Y3/4)	Prior Knowledge/Links: 'Penguins, Possums and Pigs' in Y1/2
Subject: Art	Children should already know: Drawing skills to develop 3D work, develop sculptures from
	observational drawings and paintings – using clay/play dough for model making of small
	animals.
National Curriculum	Key Knowledge and Vocabulary
Objectives	
Create sketch books to record	Know still life artists such as the Dutch Masters, Renoir and Cezanne.
observations and use them to	Know how to set up a still life arrangement to make observational studies in sketchbooks,
review and revisit ideas.	considering composition and lighting.
Improve mastery of art and	Know how plan and create sculptures of whole fruits, considering moulding and colour
design techniques, including	required.
drawing, painting and	Know how to mould and join pieces of clay to create whole fruits for a still life arrangement.
sculpture with a range of	Know how to create textures and skins using textured fabrics such as hessian.
materials (pencil, charcoal,	
paint, clay).	
Taught about great artists,	
architects and designers in	
history.	