

Art & Design Rationale:

At Cheadle Catholic Infant School we believe art is an integral part of our curriculum. It provides our pupils with the opportunity to explore and express their creativity, develop critical thinking skills, boost their confidence, and enhance their overall educational experience.

This rationale aims to highlight the importance of teaching art and its benefits for students:

- Art provides children with a platform for personal expression, allowing them to communicate their thoughts, ideas and emotions visually. Through art pupils can explore their imagination, experiment with various mediums and equipment, and develop their own unique artistic style. Encouraging creativity from an early age helps to nurture a child's ability to think outside the box and solve problems creatively.
- Art education helps pupils to develop their visual perception skills, enabling them to observe, analyse, and interpret the world around them. Through activities like drawing, painting and sculpture, children learn to closely observe shape, form, colour and texture. This enhances their visual literacy, enabling them to appreciate art in different forms and communicate visually with others.
- Teaching art exposes students to diverse cultures, histories, and artistic traditions. By studying influential artists, art movements, and different artistic styles, children gain a broader understanding of society and its historical context. This knowledge allows them to appreciate the value of art across cultures which promotes greater respect for diversity and global awareness.
- Art education facilitates the development of essential cognitive skills. Through engaging in artistic activities, children enhance their memory, attention to detail, problem-solving, and critical thinking abilities. They learn to analyse situations, make decisions, and experiment with different techniques and materials. Additionally, art helps students to explore and express their emotions, fostering self-awareness, empathy, and emotional intelligence.
- Art has the potential to enhance learning in other subject areas. Its cross-curricular nature supports the development of other skills. E.g. In maths children explore patterns and calculations, literacy through storytelling and visual communication, and science through connections between art and the natural world. Integrating art into other subjects not only enhances pupils' understanding but also nurtures a holistic approach to education.
- Art activities can boost children's self-confidence as they develop these new skills and create meaningful artwork. This sense of achievement has a positive impact on children's overall well-being and their motivation to learn in other areas. Art also provides a safe and non-judgmental space for self-expression, helping children to reduce stress, relieve anxiety, and develop a positive sense of self.

The presence of art within the school curriculum is crucial for the educational growth of all pupils. Art fosters creativity, enhances visual perception, promotes cultural understanding, supports cognitive and emotional development, integrates with other subjects, and boosts confidence and well-being. These benefits are invaluable. They equip children with skills that go beyond art education and help to prepare them with skills for future life.

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September 2023