

Published Date:	January 2025
The Policy will be reviewed annually, or more regularly, in the light of any significant new developments. The next anticipated review date will be:	April 2027

Art and Design School Policy

Rationale

Art and Design are essential components of our school curriculum, aligned with the UK National Curriculum, as they contribute to the holistic development of our students. Beyond fostering creativity and self-expression, art education enhances critical thinking, cultural awareness, and the ability to communicate visually. Our commitment to Art and Design education stems from the recognition that creativity is a fundamental skill for success in an ever-evolving world.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, our focus in Expressive Art and Design is on nurturing a love for creativity. Through exploratory activities and play-based learning, students engage with various art materials and experiences to develop fine motor skills, spatial awareness, and an understanding of color, pattern and form. The children also develop the skills of musical appreciation, rhythmic movement and singing. Activities are designed to encourage self-expression and build a foundation for future artistic exploration.

Primary and Secondary Phase

Our Art and Design curriculum builds upon foundational skills, encouraging students to experiment with diverse art forms and techniques. The curriculum includes exposure to famous artists, art history, and cultural influences. Students are encouraged to develop their artistic voice, express ideas visually, and explore the intersection of art with other subjects. Collaborative projects promote teamwork and communication skills. The curriculum is designed to incorporate the aims of the UK National Curriculum programs of study as follows:

- produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
- become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques
- evaluate and analyze creative works using the language of art, craft and design
- Know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

Secondary Phase

In the secondary phase, our Art and Design program becomes more specialized, offering students the opportunity to delve deeper into various art disciplines and progress onto formal examination courses. Students are taught to develop their skills, ideas and creativity by incorporating the aims of the UK National Curriculum programs of study as follows:

Vision

'At GFM we empower students to have the heart to celebrate uniqueness and the mind to be innovative, creative problem solvers, bringing a positive change to the world in which we live.'

- to use a range of techniques to record their observations in sketchbooks, journals and other media as a basis for exploring their ideas
- to use a range of techniques and media, including painting
- to increase their proficiency in the handling of different materials
- to analyse and evaluate their own work, and that of others, in order to strengthen the visual impact or applications of their work
- about the history of art, craft, design and architecture, including periods, styles and major movements from ancient times up to the present day.

Assessment

Artistic assessments encompass both practical and conceptual elements using both formative and summative approaches. Assessments include individual and group projects, critiques, and reflective journals. The emphasis is on encouraging experimentation and personal growth within the artistic process. All students are assessed against the aims of the EYFS or the UK National Curriculum.

Inclusion

The school ensures access to Art and Design education for all students, including those with special educational needs, by providing differentiated resources, tailored teaching strategies, and individualized support where necessary. This ensures every student can fully participate and express their creativity. Simultaneously, the school recognizes and nurtures students with exceptional artistic talents by offering advanced opportunities such as specialized workshops, mentorship programs, and participation in challenging projects. By balancing inclusivity with opportunities for extended challenge, the school fosters a learning environment where every student can thrive and excel.

Enrichment

Enrichment activities in Art and Design include art clubs, High Performance tasks, and workshops with local artists, and visits to galleries and museums. These experiences aim to broaden students' exposure to different art forms, foster appreciation for diverse artistic styles, and provide inspiration for their own creations. Participation in regional and national art competitions is also encouraged.

Parental Involvement

We value the partnership between the school and parents in nurturing creativity. Regular updates on the Art and Design curriculum, showcases of student work, and invitations to art-related events are provided.

Our Art and Design policy reflects our commitment to cultivating a generation of creative thinkers and expressive individuals. Through a comprehensive curriculum, thoughtful assessment strategies, enriching experiences, and active parental involvement, we aim to instill a lifelong appreciation for the arts and empower our students to engage meaningfully with the world through their creative expressions.

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