

KS2 UPPER ART CURRICULUM OVERVIEW FOR PARENTS

In Upper Key Stage 2, children build a deeper understanding of art as a form of communication and cultural expression. They refine their techniques, explore complex media, and develop their own artistic voice while studying the work of significant artists and movements.



Children should:

- Use sketchbooks independently to collect ideas, plan compositions, and reflect on progress.
- Master skills in a broad range of techniques, including drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, textiles, and digital media.
- Study influential artists and designers, recognising how art reflects history, culture and identity.



Children will explore:

- Art linked to wider topics – such as Ancient Egyptian wall art, Islamic geometric design, World War II propaganda posters, and modernist abstraction.
- How different materials and styles can express emotion, movement and atmosphere.
- The role of art and design in influencing change and recording ideas.

They'll experiment with materials and techniques to convey meaning and develop their own unique style.



How will they learn?

Through creative lessons that include:

- Practical exploration of techniques and materials.
- Research into artists, art movements and cultural influences.
- Group discussion and peer feedback.
- Independent and collaborative projects that encourage personal expression.



They will learn basic techniques related to:

- Painting and colour theory – including layering, tonal contrast, and using colour to evoke emotion.
- Drawing and perspective – mastering proportion, scale and viewpoint.
- Printmaking and mixed media – combining techniques to produce complex compositions.
- 3D work – sculpting and modelling using clay, wire or recycled materials.
- Digital and graphic art – exploring layout, photography and design principles.

These advanced skills prepare children to make deliberate creative choices and express their ideas with confidence.



Children will:

- Study artists such as Frida Kahlo, Pablo Picasso, Claude Monet, and modern illustrators and designers.
 - Explore how artists use symbolism, abstraction and perspective to communicate messages.
 - Reflect critically on their own work and the work of others using art-specific language.
 - Use sketchbooks as visual journals to experiment, record and review ideas.
- Children learn that art can tell stories, challenge ideas, and inspire change.**



Art helps children:

- Express identity, imagination and ideas confidently.
- Understand how art connects to history, society and culture.
- Develop independence, resilience and creative problem-solving.
- Value art as a lifelong means of communication and reflection.



KS2U How can I help my child at home?

Encouraging curiosity, discussion and experimentation helps your child develop their own artistic style and confidence.

Offer sketchbooks, paints, textiles or digital tools so they can experiment freely.



Support your child to research an artist or theme that interests them and create art inspired by it.

Visit galleries, exhibitions or explore virtual tours and look at how different artists use line, colour and texture to share ideas or tell stories.



What do you think the artist was trying to show?
How does this make you feel?



Ask questions like “What do you think the artist was trying to show?” or “How does this make you feel?”

Connect art to real life - notice design in posters, architecture, fashion and technology – art is everywhere!

