



Benhall St Mary's C of E Primary School

Be the best you can be.

Let your light shine before others; that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven'- Matthew 5:16

Art and Design Policy

2026-2028

Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear framework for the teaching and learning of Art and Design at Benhall St. Mary's Primary School. The policy is based on the AccessArt Scheme of Work, which encourages creativity, critical thinking, and skill development across a wide range of artistic disciplines. This policy ensures that art is a fundamental and integral part of the school curriculum, enabling children to explore, express, and communicate their ideas through visual arts.

Intent

At Benhall, we believe that art is a subject which can inspire and enrich lives. It is an opportunity for self-expression, discovery, and imagination. Diverse cultures, emotions, physical landscapes, music and story can all be explored through this technical yet creative subject. We want our children to take risks, experiment, explore, be inspired, reflect and respond to the work created by other artists as well as the world around them. We want them to become proficient in the key skills of drawing, painting, print making, collage, textiles and 3D work while making links to history, geography, computing, RE, music, Mathematics and English.

Key concepts:

Tone, line, texture, pattern, 2D forms, 3D forms, colour, creativity, imagination, explanation, observation, imagination, exploration, scale, perspective, discovery

Our locality

Our rural locality provides opportunities for sketching varied, protected plant life, an extensive array of indigenous and historic buildings. Wherever possible, references will be made to local or national artists.

Implementation

At Benhall St. Mary's, we aim to:

- Inspire creativity and encourage children to express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings through art.
- Provide opportunities for all children to develop their artistic skills, confidence, and a deeper understanding of art, both from historical and contemporary contexts.
- Promote the use of a wide range of materials, techniques, and processes, enabling children to experiment and explore their artistic potential.
- Foster an understanding of the work of both professional artists and their peers, encouraging critical thinking and reflection.
- Support the development of other key skills, such as fine motor skills, problem-solving, and visual literacy.

Making Art come alive

Art is taught regularly at Benhall. Wherever possible children have an art lesson every week. This is a deliberate decision which underlines how important we feel art is to the development of every child.

At Benhall Primary School we use the Access Art curriculum. This is divided into six multi-disciplinary pathways, which ensure the development of skills through the integration of different media, continually building on prior learning. Flexibility within the scheme allows teachers to adapt knowledge rich ideas to suit individual students and needs, whilst embracing each child's creativity with multiple opportunities for exploration. Each pathway follows a particular format, including warm-ups, artist and material critiques and reflections, and challenges or briefs for final pieces. There are plentiful opportunities for repeated practices and new experiences with a range of collaborative and independent activities, which allow more layers of knowledge and skills to be developed, alongside the growth of imagination and ideas.

Visiting artists, a dedicated art display area and entry into art competitions ensure that art is celebrated throughout our school. Children's ideas are developed through the use of sketchbooks, which also have photographs, or original final pieces of work.

Teaching and Learning

Our teaching approach is based on the AccessArt scheme of work, which emphasizes:

- **Progression:** Art and design skills are developed gradually, ensuring children's creativity flourishes through continuous exposure to new techniques, materials, and ideas.
- **Process-Based Learning:** We emphasise the importance of the creative process, from brainstorming and sketching ideas to experimenting and refining work, rather than solely focussing on the final product.
- **Personal Expression:** Children are encouraged to explore their own unique ways of expressing themselves artistically, allowing their individuality to emerge in their work.
- **Hands-On Practice:** Children will have regular opportunities for practical activities, using a wide variety of materials, tools, and technologies.

Curriculum Coverage

The Art and Design curriculum at Benhall St. Mary's is designed to ensure that children experience a wide variety of art forms, processes, and cultural contexts. The curriculum is based on the following key areas:

- **Drawing and Painting:** Through the study of both traditional and contemporary techniques, children will develop their skills in drawing, painting, and mixed media.

- **Sculpture:** Children will explore three-dimensional art, using materials such as clay, wire, and recycled objects.
- **Textiles and Collage:** The use of fabric, thread, and other collage materials will help children explore texture, colour, and composition.
- **Printmaking:** Opportunities for children to experiment with printmaking techniques, such as block printing and mono printing, will be provided.
- **Digital Art:** Children will be introduced to digital tools and technologies to create artwork, helping them understand the intersection of traditional and modern methods.

EYFS

In Reception, Art and Design is taught in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Children in this phase are encouraged to explore, experiment, and express themselves through a variety of materials, tools, and media. The focus is on developing their creativity and fine motor skills through hands-on activities such as drawing, painting, and model-making. Teachers will support children in developing early skills in shape, colour, texture, and pattern, fostering an understanding of the world around them. The EYFS encourages a play-based approach, where children can explore and create both independently and through guided activities, helping to build confidence and imagination in their artistic expression.

The Role of the Teacher

Teachers at Benhall St. Mary's play a key role in guiding and facilitating children's learning. The role of the teacher is to:

- Provide engaging, differentiated, and inspiring lessons based on the AccessArt scheme of work.
- Create a supportive and encouraging environment where all children feel comfortable to explore and experiment with art.
- Encourage reflection and discussion about their own work and the work of others.
- Help children develop the necessary skills, knowledge, and understanding to express their ideas confidently and independently.
- Provide opportunities for cross-curricular links with other subjects (e.g., history, geography, science) through the study of art.
- Assess and track children's progress, offering constructive feedback to help them grow in their artistic abilities.

Impact

Art is assessed frequently, both during and after each lesson, as well as at the end of each half-termly unit. Frequent assessment ensures pupils are working at their creative potential, whilst

enabling ample opportunities for exploration, through the provision of materials, media, modelling and support. Timely verbal feedback is a key assessment tool in each lesson. At the end of each unit, teachers consider knowledge, creativity, skills, evaluation and imagination in both sketchbook work and final pieces, leading to an overall level of working towards, at expected or greater depth. Children assess their own work at the end of every unit, increasingly learning skills in evaluating and critiquing both their own work and that of others. They may also use peer assessment to encourage and challenge each other to improve their work. By the time children leave us in year 6, we want them to be able to express themselves artistically; have an understanding of a broad range of artists, designers, architects, artwork and skills, and be self-aware, able to self-analyse and be confident in their creative ability.

Assessment and Feedback

Children's progress in art and design will be assessed through:

- **Ongoing formative assessment:** Teachers will continuously observe and interact with children as they work, offering feedback, guidance, and support.
- **Workshops and Discussions:** Children will regularly participate in peer and teacher-led critiques, helping to develop their reflective and evaluative skills.
- **Sketchbooks:** A sketchbook will be maintained by each child, showcasing their progress over time. This will include final pieces, drafts, sketches, and written reflections.
- **Self-Assessment:** Children will be encouraged to reflect on their own work, identifying strengths and areas for improvement.

Inclusion

We are committed to providing all children with equal access to art education, regardless of ability, or background. The Art and Design curriculum is designed to be flexible and inclusive, with opportunities for adaptations to meet the diverse needs of all learners. Children with special educational needs (SEN) or disabilities will receive appropriate support and adjustments to ensure they are able to fully engage in the creative process.

Community Engagement and Celebrating Art

At Benhall St. Mary's, we believe that art can help build a strong sense of community. We will encourage the children to share their work with the wider community through:

- Art exhibitions and displays within the school
- Collaboration with local artists and art organisations
- Participation in community art projects and events

The Role of the Subject Leader

The Art and Design Subject Leader at Benhall St. Mary's has key responsibilities for ensuring the effective delivery of the curriculum and continuous improvement in teaching and learning. These include:

- **Curriculum Oversight:** Ensuring the Art and Design curriculum is up to date, aligned with the AccessArt scheme, and meets the needs of all children.
- **Monitoring and Support:** Regularly observing lessons, reviewing children's work, and providing guidance and resources to teachers to improve practice.
- **Professional Development:** Identifying and facilitating training opportunities for staff to enhance their skills and knowledge.
- **Resource Management:** Overseeing the provision and maintenance of art materials and resources across the school.
- **Progression and Assessment:** Ensuring clear progression of skills across year groups and tracking children's progress through assessments.
- **Promoting Art:** Advocating for art throughout the school, organising events to showcase student work, and engaging parents and the community.
- **Reporting:** Providing updates to senior leaders and governors on student progress and the effectiveness of the Art curriculum.

The Subject Leader ensures a high-quality, progressive, and engaging Art education for all students at Benhall St. Mary's Primary school.

Monitoring and Review

This Art and Design Policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the children and reflects developments in the curriculum and pedagogical practice. The effectiveness of the policy will be monitored by the subject leader, in collaboration with teachers and other staff, to ensure high standards of teaching and learning are maintained.

Reviewed: September 2026