

Thomas Gray Primary School **Arts Policy**

What are the Arts at Thomas Gray?

The Arts are like your backbone. You may be able to survive without it but what quality of life would you have?

“Art is the expression of the profoundest thoughts in the simplest way.” Albert Einstein.

“If we are to prepare successfully for the twenty-first century we shall have to do more than just improve literacy and numeracy skills a broad, flexible and motivating education that recognises the different talents of all children and delivers excellence for everyone.” Excellence in Schools, DfEE 1997

We are an Arts rich school.

We have an overall aim to ensure that children have access to a broad and balanced and exciting curriculum which enables motivation, originality and imagination, as well as the development of skills, regardless of race, religion, gender or academic ability.

The Arts at Thomas Gray include a range of integrated subjects, art, drama, dance, crafts, and music. Creativity is the core element that runs through each of these subjects.

Why do we provide an arts rich curriculum?

We believe every individual is naturally creative and that through the arts this creativity can be developed, nurtured and enriched. We believe that through the arts curriculum children develop awareness of the world around them, they explore colour, pattern, shape, ideas and they experiment with new ideas. We believe that children develop confidence and are able to express themselves in a variety of ways.

At Thomas Gray we provide rich and varied opportunities for all pupils in the Arts to enable pupils to explore values, attitudes, feelings and meanings. All pupils find success in the arts and their self esteem is enhanced. High self esteem is the key to all learning. With high self esteem come good self image and inner confidence and the ability to apply success to other areas of learning.

The Arts contribute to the quality of life both within and beyond school.

Our arts provision is embedded in the school’s ethos and planning mechanisms. Key resources are allocated to arts provision including staff, CPD development, materials and equipment.

We have a strategic approach to the provision of the Arts, which takes into account the curriculum, out-of-hours opportunities, sharing and celebrating achievements in the arts, visits and partnerships with arts organisations outside school and the contribution of the arts to the school environment.

Our key aims are:

To provide pupils with opportunities to:

- Provide high quality art experiences and resources for our children.
- Express themselves aesthetically and linguistically using practical activities and appropriate materials.
- Engage with a variety of art forms, to explore values, attitudes, feelings and meanings.
- Enable children to acquire a variety of skills which will reflect an understanding and appreciation of the arts in the world around them.
- Develop the ability to create, appreciate and make critical judgements about artworks.
- Encourage pupils to work independently and in teams, to share arts experiences and represent artworks to others.
- To celebrate artistic achievements of each child.
- To develop the use of ICT and new technologies in creative work.
- To develop effective links with the community which strengthen and offer diverse arts provision within school.
- Develop an understanding of the role of the arts in society.
- Through the Arts we wish to play an important part in helping individuals appreciate and understand the wealth of what is produced artistically in our multi-cultural society.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

It is essential that children are able to experience high quality Arts experiences and they can answer some fundamental questions about artists, diverse cultures, performance, and how the arts can be aesthetically pleasing. A sense of awe and wonder is developed through discovery of the processes that the Arts create. The Arts raise many social and moral questions. Through the Arts teaching, children have the opportunity to discuss choices we make and the effect they have on the world around us. The Arts give the children the opportunity to reflect on art work, performance, music, and creative work. The Arts teach Science children about the reasons why people are different and, by developing the children's knowledge and understanding of the opportunities that the Arts bring, it promotes respect for other people.

Our Objectives

All pupils are given an entitlement to a range of high-quality arts experiences, whatever their background and ability that ensures progress.

All children, irrespective of

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief

- gender
- sexual orientation
- socio-economic status

have an entitlement to effective learning experiences, which will enable them to achieve their maximum potential. At Thomas Gray all staff offer children with special education needs access to a broad, balanced and relevant education, including the National Curriculum.

This is in accordance with the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, in compliance with that Act and with the extended requirements of the Equality Act of 2010.

All pupils will have the opportunity to work with visiting artist and to produce an art form as part of their art legacy.

We will provide an arts curriculum of quality, range and depth that give opportunities for cross-curricular work.

There are opportunities for pupils to be creative that are built into planning and teaching.

To provide a curriculum that is broad and gives opportunities for pupils to learn about the arts of diverse cultures.

To develop pupil self-esteem, pupil confidence and maturity through participation in the Arts.

All our teachers will have access to regular continuing professional development that refreshes their own creativity and keeps them up to date with developments in the arts.

We work closely with our local Secondary Arts Department.

All our pupils are given opportunities to design and complete artworks in a range of art forms.

All our pupils are given opportunities to exhibit their work and take part in a performance at least twice a year. (eg: show and tell assemblies, Christmas performances).

Our pupils have the opportunity to see work exhibited and performed by professional artists. E.g. galleries

These objectives will be implemented through:

The New Primary Curriculum (Expressive Arts and Design), Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and the development of existing and future policies in all subjects where a creative approach to teaching and learning is encouraged.

To investigate outside funding for extra-curricular arts activities.

To have cultural weeks and topic weeks where the Arts are a focus and there are opportunities for the children to work with an artist in residence.

To provide a range of Arts Events to enrich pupil learning that include performances, art and craft clubs, and recorder lessons.

CPD opportunities

All staff will be given CPD opportunities through courses, insets and twilights.

Music – opportunities for staff to work alongside teacher in music through liaison with Sefton Music Service.

Drama - Theatre trips, live productions in school, opportunities to be part of a production.

Health and Safety

Any staff member or outside agencies involved with activities within school complies with Thomas Gray Primary Schools Health and Safety Policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Christmas Productions.
- Show and Tell assemblies.
- Art is taught as part of the Creative Curriculum.
- Music support from Sefton through Wider Opportunities.
- Music Express and ongoing units of work.
- Dance is taught during PE lessons.
- Drama is taught through Literacy and the Creative Curriculum.
- Visits to the theatre.
- Productions in school.
- Wally Cane Dance Festival for Year 6.
- Trips to galleries.
- Creative work through ICT.
- Cultural Weeks.

We encourage all children to further their Arts interest in clubs out of school.

Signed: A. P. Taylor
Chair of Governors

Date: 3/6/14

Signed: [Signature]
Headteacher

Date: 3/6/14

Date to be reviewed: June 2017