

Art and Design at Icení Primary Academy



Art is not just a subject to learn, but an activity that you can practise with your hands, your eyes, your whole personality.

Quentin Blake, Children's Laureate



Intent

At Icení, we believe that Art and Design play a vital role in nurturing creativity, imagination, and self-expression. Through a rich and inspiring curriculum, we aim to equip pupils with the skills, knowledge, and conceptual understanding needed to explore and communicate their ideas in a variety of ways.

Art and Design education empowers children to express what they see, feel, and think using a wide range of materials, techniques, and processes. It encourages them to experiment with colour, texture, form, and pattern, fostering both confidence and originality in their creative work.

By engaging with the work of artists and designers from diverse cultures and time periods, pupils develop a deeper understanding of how art reflects and shapes our world. They learn to appreciate the role of art and design in our history, heritage, and contemporary society—and how it contributes to the culture, creativity, and wealth of our nation.

Implementation

At Icení Primary Academy, the teaching of Art and Design is rooted in the National Curriculum and thoughtfully integrated into our wider topic-based approach. This ensures a coherent and engaging learning journey where creativity is nurtured alongside cross-curricular connections.

Pupils explore a broad range of artistic disciplines, including sculpture, mosaics, and printing, often linked to their current topics to deepen understanding and context. For example, in Beech Class, children create and paint clay masks as part of their study of the Shang Dynasty, while in Oak Class, pupils explore the technique of Pointillism through the lens of significant artists.

Art and Design lessons are designed to develop both new and existing skills, encouraging progression and confidence in using a variety of materials, tools, and techniques. Where appropriate, learning is enriched through meaningful links with other subjects, reinforcing knowledge and enhancing creativity.

Our long-term plan outlines the progression of skills and knowledge across year groups. To inspire and broaden pupils' cultural awareness, we display reproductions of famous artworks throughout the school and explore the work of a variety of artists. This exposure helps children understand the impact of art on society and its role in shaping history and culture.

Impact

Ongoing formative assessment is embedded throughout the year, guided by our *Powerful Knowledge and Skills* framework. Teachers continuously monitor pupils' progress, using this insight to inform planning and ensure that each child is appropriately supported and challenged. Assessment data is

reviewed termly to identify trends, address gaps in attainment, and adapt teaching strategies accordingly. This reflective approach ensures that learning is responsive and inclusive, enabling all pupils to make sustained progress in their artistic development.

Marking and Feedback

Work is marked according to the school marking policy by using

- Peer and self-assessment
- Oral feedback
- Written feedback

Inclusion

At Icen Primary Academy, we are committed to ensuring that every child can thrive. We adapt teaching and learning to meet the diverse needs of all learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Our inclusive approach ensures that children receive the support and resources they need to succeed in every aspect of their education.

Our staff work closely with families, external agencies, and specialists to ensure that provision is continually reviewed and refined. We believe that with the right support, every child can achieve their full potential.

Our SEND Information Report is available on our website. Please ask if you would like us to print a copy out.

EYFS

In the Early Years at Icen Primary Academy, our aim is to lay strong foundations in Art and Design by nurturing children's creativity, curiosity, and confidence. We provide rich opportunities for pupils to explore a wide range of materials, tools, and techniques—experimenting with colour, design, texture, form, and function in both indoor and outdoor learning environments.

Children are encouraged to express their ideas and explain the processes behind their creations, fostering independence and reflective thinking. Exposure to the work of well-known artists serves as a stimulus for their own imaginative responses, helping them begin to appreciate the role of art in the world around them.

Our provision is guided by the *Expressive Arts and Design* strand of *Development Matters*, ensuring that children progress through age-appropriate stages of learning. We also use our *EYFS Powerful Knowledge and Skills* framework to prepare children for a smooth transition into Key Stage 1, equipping them with the essential skills and understanding to thrive in their artistic journey.

Link to the National Curriculum

[National Curriculum - Art and design key stages 1 to 2](#)

If you require further information, please do email icenprimary@attrust.org.uk