

Art Overview

At Hartside Primary Academy, we believe art is a vital part of a broad and balanced curriculum, fostering creativity, confidence, and curiosity in every child. Guided by our school mantra, “Helping every child succeed and make progress,” our art curriculum is designed to inspire and challenge pupils, enabling them to express ideas, explore materials, and develop technical skills from EYFS through Year 6.

Our curriculum introduces children to a diverse range of artists, designers, and makers, helping them appreciate different perspectives and cultural contexts. We make strong links to our local heritage and environment, using the beauty of County Durham and enrichment experiences such as visits to Durham Cathedral, The Oriental Museum, and The Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art further inspire pupils and deepen their understanding of art in historical and contemporary contexts. We are fortunate enough have beautiful school grounds that the children can use as a basis for creating their artwork. Through art, we actively promote our school character traits: grit in persevering with challenging techniques, kindness and empathy in collaborative projects and peer feedback, self-control in managing tools and materials safely, and respect and integrity in valuing diverse artistic traditions and expressing ideas responsibly.

Starting in EYFS, art is embedded within continuous provision and child-led exploration, giving children the freedom to experiment with colour, texture, and form while building fine motor skills and confidence. As pupils progress through Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, they revisit and deepen their understanding of drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and design through carefully planned topics that encourage risk-taking, reflection, and personal expression. By the end of Year 6, our pupils are equipped with a broad skill set, the ability to think creatively, and the confidence to express themselves through a variety of media. They understand that art is a process of exploration and reflection, preparing them for the challenges of Key Stage 3 and nurturing a lifelong appreciation for creativity.

EYFS

Art in EYFS is woven into continuous provision and child-led play rather than taught in separate lessons. Children explore open-ended materials and activities that encourage creativity, self-expression, and sensory engagement. These experiences support physical development, communication, and confidence while meeting Early Learning Goals in expressive arts, fine motor skills, and language. Through hands-on exploration of colour, form, and texture, children build the foundations for future art learning in Year 1.

Topic Overviews			
Year	Drawing & Sketchbooks	Surface & Colour	Working in 3D
1	Spirals (Drawing – Mixed Media) Molly Haslund	Inspired by Flora & Fauna (Paint & Collage) Eric Carle, Joseph Redoute, Jan Van Kessel	Birds (Sculpture – Mixed Media) Andrea Butler Ernst Haeckel
2	Explore and Draw Nature (Drawing – Graphite, Pen, Wax Crayons) Rosie James, Alice Fox	Exploring the World through Mono Print (Printmaking - Styrofoam) Xgaoc'o X'are, Leonardo Di Vinci	Stick Transformation Project (Making) Chris Kenny
3	Gestural Drawing with Charcoal (Drawing) Heather Hansen, Laura McKendry, Edgar Degas	Cloth, Thread, Paint Landscapes (Painting and Sewing) Alice Kettle, Hannah Rae	Animation (Drawing and Animation) Lauren Child, Steve Kirby, Andrew Fox, Lucinda Schreiber
4	Storytelling through Drawing – Illustration, Graphic Novels (Drawing - Mixed) Laura Carlin, Shaun Tan	Exploring Still Life (Painting) Paul Cezanne, Peter Claesz, Melchior d' Hondecoeter, Jan Davidsz, Jacob Vosmaer, Hilary Pecis, Nicole Dyer, Baas Meeuws, Hirasho Sato	Inspired by Food (Sculpture) Claes Oldenberg, Lucia Hierro, Nicole Dyer
5	Typography and Maps (Drawing - graphite) Louise Fili, Grayson Perry, Paula Scher, Chris Kenny	Fashion Design (Painting) Alice Fox, Rahul Mishra, Pyer Moss, Tatyana Antoun, Hormazd Narielwalla	Architectural Models (Making - Mixed) The Shoreditch Sketcher
6	Graphic Design (Drawing and Sculpture) Lubaina Himid, Claire Harrup	Activism through Art (Printing, Collage and Drawing) Luba Lukova, Faith Ringgold, Shepard Fairey	Brave Colour - Mini Installations (Making - Mixed) Olafur Eliasson, Yinka Ilori, Morag Myerscough, Liz Wes