



## **St Bede's RC Primary School**

### **Art and Creativity Policy**

Agreed by the Governing Body	Summer 2018
Review Date	Summer 2021
Person Responsible	Arts Subject Leader

‘All children have the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.’  
Article 31, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

## **Overview**

At St Bede’s Primary School, all staff ensure that each child is valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. Creativity is at the heart of all teaching and learning.

This document outlines our school’s Creativity and Arts Policy. It details how creativity is promoted throughout our school, in all areas of the curriculum and the wider aspects of our school life.

## **Our Mission Statement and Aims**

Creativity and the arts have a strong link with the school mission statement and help to enable all staff to foster a learning environment where pupils can achieve.

***We provide a Catholic curriculum, which is broad and balanced, recognising that every pupil is unique and is created in the image of God (GEN 1:27).***

Motivating and challenging learners in a creative, enjoyable and secure environment, St Bede’s aims to develop thoughtful and responsible young people with high self-esteem and the skills and knowledge to succeed in life. By understanding what our children already know, we inspire learning through teaching and a passion for bringing a rich and varied curriculum to life in a cross curricular way. St Bede’s has high aspirations for what our pupils can achieve. We encourage a love of learning, and as a community we are committed to every pupil’s success. We strive to ensure that children develop respect for themselves, each other, their families, our local parish community, other cultures/ religions and the environment. We believe that every child has a special talent and encourage these talents to develop both academically and creatively.

## **Creativity at St Bede’s**

Creativity means developing all pupils’ creative flair and imagination to enrich teaching and learning, and promoting self-esteem.

At St Bede’s we are committed to providing such creative arts opportunities within art & design, music and drama. Arts are delivered through a cross curricular approach.

There are many opportunities to enrich children’s learning across the whole school and the wider community. Our school promotes art through activities during curriculum time and enrichment opportunities such as professional visitors and trips (Durham University, performances by drama students from the local college, Eden camp museum, Beamish Museum, Centre for Life, Craggside etc.)

We believe that the arts give all students the chance to explore their own creative potential and to succeed by promoting their sense of self-worth and enthusiasm. We provide experiences for all children regardless of age, ability, gender or ethnicity; this helps them to discover hidden talents, skills, passions and personal interests. We celebrate success, progress and inspiration through displays throughout our school and parish. Children receive recognition for work and these are praised in assemblies. Members and family of the school community are invited to watch performances and reward assemblies.

## **Learning Environment**

St Bede's aims to provide an environment that will enable all children to access a range of creative arts, creative learning and thinking opportunities. Classrooms, corridors and the school hall are used for a wide range of arts display opportunities in addition to outdoor learning areas. There is a designated resource area for art and design, which is available for all staff, in addition to supplies kept in classrooms.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The Arts Subject Leader ensures that resources are ordered and maintained in relation to requests and needs of the school. Staff members share good practice and assist each other to help spread the strategies needed when using creativity within the classroom. Staff are responsible for teaching the curriculum creatively at St Bede's and are responsible for providing creative enrichment activities such as visitors or trips, class assemblies and displays.

## **Curriculum Provision**

### ***(Planning, assessment, progression and evaluation)***

Our school ethos, mission statement and curriculum reflect the importance we place on the use of creativity. Our teaching and learning techniques incorporate a visual, auditory and kinaesthetic curriculum. This ensures an element of creative teaching in all that we do catering for all learning styles.

Our planning is in three phases (long-term, medium-term and short-term) for each Year group. The New Curriculum skills and success criteria for our Art & DT have been incorporated into these. Each teacher has their specific themes/topics identified for a two year cycle to cover the mixed age classes within St Bede's. This ensures all areas of skills and levels are covered within each key stage. Progression across the year groups and resource needs are then identified.

Medium-term planning is uploaded onto the school's Durham's Learning Gateway.

Opportunities for more creative ideas to be incorporated into the planning are encouraged (community anniversaries, parish and diocesan events and celebrations, Olympics, World Cup etc.)

Lessons and children's work are evaluated and on-going teacher assessments are made in order to inform future planning and reports to parents. We assess the children's work by making informal judgements, as we observe the children and their work. We assess each child using Durham LA assessment sheets and record the attainment of children in art and design technology on our SIMS system each term. This then provides staff with data which they can analyse to identify children on track, exceeding and below age related expectation.

Information and comments about a child's progression are passed on to parents in an annual report.

Peer and self-assessment are encouraged to promote self-worth and enable confident, creative critical thinkers.

Art books, which are an invaluable assessment resource, are used to record and provide a comprehensive overview of the child's work each year. A school portfolio is an ongoing record of display and art work around the school.

Drama is a key element of our Literacy and Religious lessons and is used as a powerful, creative teaching tool across the whole curriculum and through worship/ assemblies, KS1 Christmas Nativity productions and KS2 summer musical productions. Visits to the theatre at Durham give the children opportunities to see skilled professional performances. Our school regularly plays host to theatre groups, whose performances link to traditional children's stories

Music is taught in class through topic work, during assemblies, shows and singing practises. Outside support for violin is provided by Durham Music Services. In addition guitar and ukulele lessons are provided by Musical mates.

We also ensure that talented children are encouraged to perform in our annual 'St Bede's Got Talent' show.

### **Health and Safety**

Teachers will always teach the safe use of tools and equipment and insist on good practice.

Aprons will be used in the KS1 department before undertaking any activity that will mark or damage their uniforms, old shirts/aprons will be used by KS2 children.

All children will be encouraged to wash their hands after any art and design activity.

Resources will be purchased from a reliable art source.

Children will manage their environment to reduce risk to themselves and others.

### **Equal Opportunities**

We will provide opportunities for all our children, regardless of age, ability, gender, ethnicity or vulnerability. Creative teaching may be used to develop children's learning in any area of the curriculum, particularly for those with special needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum encompassing year groups, key stages and the whole school. Our school has an equalities policy which all staff adhere to.