

Art in the Early Years



Learning about Chinese New Year and then using this as an inspiration to work cooperatively to make a dragon dance.

Using the art work of L.S. Lowry as a discussion starter to then move on and generate art linked to homes and buildings.



Learning about God's creation in RE and then creating a piece of transient 3D art of the world from found materials during child initiated learning.

Art at Foundation Stage (Reception) is covered in the 'Expressive Arts and Design' area of the EYFS Curriculum, however, some of the skills that children develop in the arts, are covered in the Fine Motor Skills section of Physical Development which is a prime area of the curriculum. Art is introduced through activities that require the children to express their creativity in different ways as they learn to experience working with a range of tools and materials.

Early Years Art helps the children develop skills in the prime areas of the Foundation Stage Curriculum such as Communication and Language and Personal, Social and Emotional Development as they discuss ideas and processes and learn to work independently as they self-select materials and tools and also as they learn to cooperate with others on joint projects.

Some of the art work that the children become involved in is through them using readily available resources in the indoor and outdoor environments. Children may start working on an area of interest and then adults intervene to develop the children's learning through discussions and relevant enhancements. In this way, the children take ownership of the task while developing the skills and knowledge necessary to move their learning forward.

Art is carefully planned for in the curriculum. The children at St. Augustine's School work on half termly Art or Design topics which allow them to develop skills and knowledge in a more structured way whilst also helping them develop their vocabulary of art techniques and skills. Other curriculum areas are weaved into the children's work on art so for example during the children's work on the built environment through the 'Take a Trip' topic, the children were introduced to the work of L.S. Lowry and worked with mixed media on creating pieces of art linked to homes and buildings. During shape work in Maths, the children studied the work of Piet Mondrian and learned to develop their skills of using straight lines in their work. When learning about 'Marvellous Me' the children study portraits and use the art work of Pablo Picasso to discuss artistic style, shape and form. These discussions help develop the children's vocabulary as they learn to describe Picasso's work and also take time to explore the way that looking at his art makes them feel, thus providing seamless links with being able to communicate feelings and opinions, thus developing personal, social and emotional development and communication and language.

Through creative dance, we make other curriculum links. When studying Chinese New Year, we encourage the children to explore movement and to work cooperatively to produce their own dragon dances.

All this work in Reception, helps our children develop creativity, skills, knowledge and understanding, while developing their vocabulary of art, thus preparing them for their work in Year 1.