Art at Westgarth

What does Art look like at Westgarth? Here at Westgarth, Art, craft and design is a subject that gives pupils the opportunity to express ideas, attitudes and values. We place a great emphasis on the importance of stimulating children's creativity and imagination through the sensory, visual and tactile elements of Art and Design. We want our lessons to inspire children, with individuality and creativeness flowing through everything they do whilst understanding the impact it has had on contemporary life and that of different times and cultures giving them the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

Why is Art important? The appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts enriches all our lives and is a special way of understanding and responding to the world; encouraging critical and creative thinking. As such it lends itself readily to, extending and consolidating learning in a variety of curriculum contexts. It enables children of all abilities to communicate what they see, feel and think through the use of colour, texture, form, pattern, different materials and processes whilst supporting their own wellbeing; allowing them to discover their own individual style. The visual impact of work reflects the children's sense of pride in their artwork and this is also demonstrated by creative outcomes across the wider curriculum.

What events take place as part of our Art curriculum? Art is celebrated every day through work. The subject often contributes to cross-curricular programmes and to various events and activities which include the wider community and in the school calendar. These opportunities support learning in art, craft and design. The school environment also celebrates children's achievements in art with displays and in corridors demonstrating the subject's high status in the school, with outcomes, including sculptures, enhancing the outdoor as well as indoor environment.

What do we learn in Art? Our Art curriculum encourages our children to develop their practical, theoretical and disciplinary knowledge in art. A starting point of this is their own individual sketchbook where children can freely express, create, develop and learn, often with limited guidance from the teacher. They are also given the opportunities to study a range of different artists to develop their own styles and vocabulary whilst making links to their own work. They explore the processes used by artists and learn how art is studied, discussed and judged.
The skills they acquire are then applied to their cross-curricular topics, allowing children to use their knowledge to explore topics at

Expressive Arts and Design in EYFS: We recognise that Art plays a significant role from an early age and is a great starting point for children to develop language and communication between their peers and members of staff when they arrive at Westgarth. We allow children to express themselves through a range of different media and materials. We intend to continue this love of Art throughout their journey at school by celebrating as a school .Through their active participation pupils learn to explore their imagination, generate ideas, acquire skills and apply judgement.

I loved expressing emotions through colour. Year 2

It's calming and settles me. Year 4

I love where the dot takes me. Year 3

I've worked with an amazing artist – I've never done it before. Year 6