PHOENIX INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

**CREATIVE ARTS POLICY**

We believe that the arts are a fundamental part of the curriculum and define the arts as music, dance, drama, art and literature. We believe that the arts offer opportunities for the children to explore, express and communicate their feelings whilst gaining experiences of the wider world. Through experiencing the arts, children develop their creativity, self-esteem and confidence.

‘The arts are like your backbone. You may be

able to survive without your backbone but

what quality of life would you have?’

Sir Simon Rattle

**AIMS OF THE SCHOOL**

**At Phoenix Infant and Nursery School we show a strong commitment to the arts to ensure a full and rounded education for all pupils. There is an entitlement to a wide range of arts experiences for every pupil as part of and in addition to the curriculum. Our school aims:**

* To provide a broad, balanced and exciting arts curriculum, which enables motivation, originality and imagination as well as development of skills
* To raise the standards of arts education in school
* To enhance children’s appreciation of different cultures through the arts
* To provide high quality arts experiences and resources for our children
* To develop effective links with the community which strengthen and offer diverse arts provision within school
* To celebrate the artistic achievements of each child

**OBJECTIVES**

**The above aims will be met through the provision of opportunities for all children:**

* To continue to develop links with artists and organisations and broaden interests by being introduced to different arts experiences
* To provide a range of materials and skills with which to engage children
* To be able to develop cross-curricular work .g. using performance as a stimulus for writing
* To perform and celebrate creative thought and outcome and value every child’s contribution to the arts as important
* To develop a child’s imagination and experience through the arts.
* To use ICT technology to explore and extend creative thought
* To provide a range of extra curriculum activities which extend children’s skills in a variety of art forms.

**PUPIL ENTITLEMENT**

All children regardless of gender, race, culture, background and ability have an entitlement to arts education at an appropriate and challenging level. To ensure that children experience high standards of success, creative development needs to be taught with regards to children’s abilities to ensure progress.

Through arts teaching, all children are:

Motivated

Offered a range of resources to meet their needs

Given diverse and creative teaching styles

Sometimes the number of children who can participate in external events is restricted but we always offer the activity to **every** child. Selection for these events is always fair.

**TIME IN THE CURRICULUM**

At Phoenix Infant and Nursery School we provide curriculum time for teaching in art, design, dance, music and drama to give all pupils a broad programme. We use the arts to develop a creative approach to learning in other curriculum areas and with a range of subjects used to enhance the delivery of the arts curriculum.

**Foundation Stage**

In the Foundation Stage the Arts are incorporated into Expressive Arts.

(see Early Years Policy)

* Weekly music praise assemblies (singing)
* Christmas Production – combination of all art forms
* World Book Day- Drama focus
* Half term of dance taught within the weekly PE sessions
* Working with artists
* Drama sessions through literacy inputs
* A fixed home corner to play in familiar roles
* A role play connected to topic or children’s interests to develop and expend different roles.
* Access to instruments throughout the day
* Watching a Christmas pantomime

**Key Stage One**

* Weekly music praise assemblies (singing)
* Christmas Production– combination of all Arts forms
* Art is taught fortnightly through PPA or by the teacher and used to enhance other subjects where appropriate.
* Music is taught weekly from the teacher or through PPA. Music is also used to enhance other subjects where appropriate.
* One half term of dance per year group taught through PE sessions
* Drama is taught primarily as part of literacy with extra drama-based activities incorporated into other areas of the curriculum
* End of year 2 performance
* Visiting theatre groups/artists/musicians
* The Arts to be integrated into topic planning.
* Watching a Christmas pantomime

**ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

We have an outside provider called “Rock Steady” who come into school weekly for a morning. Children sign up through their parents and payment is required. This is subsidised 50% for Pupil Premium pupils. There are 2 spaces offered for free for Pupil Premium children.

**CROSS\_CURRICULAR LINKS**

Cross-curricular links are made through careful whole school planning and liaison between subject leaders. We also use the children’s opinion of the Arts to aid planning. Examples of this include the use of ICT in art and music; the use of drama and art in humanities.

In terms of PSD, involvement in the Arts helps children to make choices, identify what they are good at and what they need to do to improve. Our multi-cultural work helps children to recognize and celebrate difference and diversity. Children learn the techniques of discussion when appreciating a piece of artwork or music.

Cross-curricular links between subjects and topic areas are highlighted within Medium Term Plans in all year groups.

The arts are often used as part of a topics “fabulous finish” where children celebrate what they have learnt in that topic.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

We believe the value of partnerships with Arts organisations demonstrate excellence and raise awareness of opportunities and expectations in the Arts. The links benefit:

* Curriculum development
* Community links
* Staff development
* Children’s creative achievements
* The profile of the Arts

Through effective communication and liaison we ensure effective partnerships covering a range of Art forms including those of other cultures, venues and activities. Our

partnerships offer a range of learning opportunities and we are always looking for new ones.

Children are able to experience these through:

Visiting artists and musicians

Music Express and a planning created by Phoenix’s music coordinator for Music

Talented staff, parents and governors within the school

Plays, Theatre company visits & Workshops

Working with a range of Artists such as dancers and sculptures who come to school

**MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION**

Phoenix Infant and Nursery School have an Arts Co-ordinator who work with staff, parents, governors and artists and over sees all art forms within the school

The subject leaders are responsible for:

* Developing and updating the schemes of work for all stages
* Supporting teachers and subject leaders with cross-curricular links
* Overseeing and developing resources
* Monitoring and evaluating through classroom observation, planning, work scrutiny and interviewing children
* Keeping staff up to date through staff meetings, INSET, courses in the Arts and alerting them to CPD opportunities
* Keeping governors informed and working with designated Arts governor
* Providing additional and extra -curricular out of hours activities
* Working with visiting artists and other partners
* Planning for future developments through annual action plans and targets

**MONITORING AND EVALUATING**

Each subject leader for each aspect of the Arts monitors planning, collects evidence of work and performs work scrutiny, observes teaching and interviews pupils. This is in line with the School Improvement Plan and School Self Evaluation Process.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Any member of staff or Arts partnership involved in activities within the school complies with the Phoenix Infant and Nursery School Health and Safety Policy. Children are expected to behave responsibly at all times.

**BENEFITS OF THE ARTS**

By providing rich and varied contexts for pupils to acquire, develop and apply a broad range of knowledge, understanding and skills, the curriculum should enable pupils to think creatively and critically, to solve problems and to make a difference for the better. It should give them the opportunity to become creative, innovative, enterprising and capable of leadership to equip them for their future lives as workers and citizens.

Nicola Mcphilbin

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