

MVFS Expressive Arts and Design Curriculum

Intent

At MVFS we are passionate about providing our children with as many opportunities and vehicles for communicating and expressing themselves as possible; and our Expressive Arts and Design Curriculum forms an important part of this. Art and Design provide a wealth of visual, tactile and sensory experiences; and enable our children to question, understand and respond to the world in their own unique ways. By creating an accepting and nurturing environment, we also empower our children to use expressive arts as a way to show what matters most to them.

Our teaching and interactions seek to stimulate creativity and imagination; and enable our children to communicate what they see, feel and think through a range of forms and processes. We also promote how many artists have used expressive arts as a way of raising awareness of important issues, challenging discrimination and overcoming adversity. In addition to whole class sessions, our children are also encouraged and facilitated to pursue their own artistic and design interests during the day. This may range from children using drawing and crafting as a form of self-regulation, to using the internet to research and compare products that interest them.

Our Key Aims: At MVFS, we strive to...

- encourage our children to express themselves freely and confidently through artistic means.
- provide opportunities for our children to record from first-hand experiences and their imagination, and give them the confidence to increasingly include and share their own ideas.
- develop an understanding of a range of design elements and processes.
- explore ideas and processes through the work of a range of artists and makers; and consider the impact they have had on contemporary life.
- develop increasing confidence in the use of visual and tactile elements and materials; and the ability to control materials, tools and techniques to achieve a practical goal or convey emotion.
- begin to develop awareness of the role and power of art and design in different times and cultures.
- develop the ability to communicate artistic and design knowledge clearly, using the appropriate terminology and vocabulary



Implementation

At MVFS we have devised a bespoke curriculum which is carefully sequenced and interconnected; and which enables our children to develop their confidence, knowledge and understanding of expressive arts and design as they move through our school. Our curriculum is organised in a two year cycle, with topics of study being reviewed collaboratively by our teaching team at the end of each cycle.

As with all areas of our curriculum, it is important to remember that all of our children have significant gaps in their learning due to the experiences that have brought them to MVFS – indeed, all of our children have not been able to access the full curriculum for at least a year before joining us. As explained in our Curriculum Policy, this means that many of our children are working at a level below their chronological age whilst we support them to re-engage with education and enjoy high levels of interest and success, which help them to rebuild their self-esteem and start to value their own social and academic achievements. In order for our children to know more and remember more, prior learning is always considered; and opportunities for the revision of knowledge, skills and vocabulary are built into all lessons.

Stage One:

- From the very beginning, we encourage our children to invest in the process and the feeling of creating art; rather than worrying about making a product. In Stage One our children start to explore a range of techniques and processes and are introduced to an approach that follows the process: Plan → Make → Evaluate. Developing the confidence to express themselves and the resilience to keep trying when things do not go as planned, form the focus of much of our learning and exploration. When looking at famous artists, we model how to discuss and evaluate the work of others – demonstrating that it is okay for people to have and share different opinions, but that these should be communicated in a respectful manner.

Stage Two:

- In Stage Two the children build on their Stage One foundations and begin to refine their approaches towards creating and finishing pieces. They continue to explore and develop their skill, and become more critical when assessing their work and that of others against an agreed criteria. The children explore a wider range of art and design, which spans different periods, places and cultures. They also begin to understand how expressive arts have been a powerful outlet for oppressed and disadvantaged people and those facing adversity or times of personal turmoil.

Stage Three:

- Stage Three continues to build on the previous stages and enables the children to deepen their knowledge and skills. Where appropriate, units of study make clear links to the places and periods being discovered and explored across the curriculum, helping our children to appreciate what a central role art and design have played in communities since time began. At this stage, children are also taught to be more thorough in evaluating existing products, and assessing the success of their own makes.

Expressive Arts & Design – Cycle A

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Block 1	Colour Chaos		Super Seasonal Cooking
Block 2		Autumn	
Block 3	Portraits		Plants & Flowers
Block 4	Dips & Dippers	Bodies	

Expressive Arts & Design – Cycle B

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Block 1		Edible Garden	Wildlife - Birds
Block 2	Fabricate		Let's Go Fly a Kite
Block 3	Landscapes & Cityscapes	Ancient Egypt	Global Food
Block 4	Sensational Salads		

In addition to the units studied above, expressive arts and design also form a core part of enrichment opportunities on offer at MVFS. Most children access drawing, painting or crafting as part of their daily routine; and those with a particular interest are able to sign up for weekly clubs to broaden and deepen their knowledge and skills.

Impact

Through our bespoke approach and quality first teaching, we will see the impact of this subject in different ways. Our children will be engaged in lessons about expressive arts and design, and will want to find out and explore more. They will be able to talk about and demonstrate the knowledge, skills and vocabulary that they have acquired; and will show increasing levels of confidence and control when designing, making and evaluating their own pieces.

Evidence collected will show that a range of topics are being covered, and that our carefully sequenced and inter-connected approach to learning is enabling our children to develop a secure knowledge of the skills and processes studied, whilst developing their own personal style. Ultimately, our children will learn that expressive arts and design are another way that they can make sense of the world, and have a voice to communicate with others.