

Early Years Progression

for Artistic Skills and Knowledge

The teaching of artistic skills and knowledge begins in Early Years at Swansfield Park Primary School as part of the Expressive Art and Design curriculum. Alongside this progression grid, effective communication and language skills are an essential part of artistic development for our youngest learners.



Optimum Learning Point	Becoming an artist
Pre-school	Begin to produce intentional marks
Pre-school	Explore paint with fingers, brushes, sponges and other tools and body parts
Pre-school	Use a range of materials to collage
Pre-school	Create own artwork to express ideas and feelings
Pre-school	Begin to use imagination to represent ideas
Pre-school	Begin to communicate meaning for the creations they make
Nursery	Create closed shapes with continuous lines, using these to represent objects
Nursery	Begin exploring colour and colour mixing when painting
Nursery	Choose colours for a purpose
Nursery	Use a range of materials for a purpose to create a collage
Nursery	Draw with increasing complexity and detail. For example representing the features on a face
Nursery	Use drawing to represent ideas like movement. For example, fireworks in the sky
Nursery	Begin to show emotion in drawings and paintings. For example, happiness and sadness
Nursery	Continue to develop own ideas and then decide which materials/tools needed to use to express them
Nursery	Continue to communicate the meaning of their creations

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Reception	Use drawing skills to tell a story and communicate ideas and feelings
Reception	Begin to explore form by experimenting with lines of different thickness using a pencil and other tools
Reception	Experiment with a variety of media to explore texture and form
Reception	Choose and use colour for a purpose, explaining the reasons for choice
Reception	Choose and use colour for a purpose, explaining the reasons for choice
Reception	Begin to name cold and warm colours
Reception	Begin to know how to darken and lighten the shade of a colour
Reception	Work imaginatively by choosing artistic effects to express ideas and reflect feelings
Reception	Work collaboratively sharing ideas, resources and skills
Reception	When working creatively begin to adapt and refine ideas