



Art Policy

‘Rise above the ordinary’

September 2026 onwards



Art Policy

School Vision and Values

Our Vision

We will work as a whole school community to support and deliver a high quality, nurturing and respectful learning environment that inspires all of our children to rise above the ordinary. Our school is committed to being an environment that is open to the spirituality of children.

We will encourage all children to understand and adapt positively as active citizens and courageous advocates – to participate and make a difference in the diverse world in which we live.

Through our high standards of teaching and personalised learning, within a broad and balanced ambitious curriculum, we prepare our learners to make a positive contribution towards society and enjoy future success.

Our Mission “Rise above the Ordinary”

At St. Mary’s we provide a welcoming, safe and happy school where everyone is respected and listened to; a school where we take pride in ourselves and our achievements, enabling children to become confident and successful learners.

We aim to rise above the ordinary and promote excellence by providing a positive, inclusive environment for learning and growth. Inspired by our faith in God, and together, we aim for each child to become the best version of themselves in mind, body and spirit. Our Theological Rationale further encapsulates what we believe in.



St Mary's Vision for Art

At St Mary's, art is valued as a gift from God that allows children to express creativity, imagination and individuality. Through art, pupils are encouraged to explore the beauty of God's creation, reflect on their experiences and develop a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Every child is a unique individual, made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Through art, we enable children to belong by valuing their ideas and individuality, to achieve by developing artistic skills and confidence, and to thrive by recognising and nurturing their God-given talents (Psalm 127:3–4).

Guided by our RISE values – Respect, Inspire, Support and Exceed – our art curriculum is ambitious, inclusive and carefully sequenced to ensure that all pupils, including the most vulnerable, can belong within a creative community, achieve from their starting points, and thrive as reflective and expressive artists.

Our Vision for Our Children

We want our children to:

Respect art as a powerful form of communication and expression, appreciating creativity, diversity and the beauty of God's world (Psalm 96:1–3), and feeling that their own creative voice belongs.

Be Inspired to explore ideas, experiment with materials and techniques, and learn about artists and cultures from different times and places, recognising creativity as part of God's design (Exodus 35:30–35).

Be Supported to develop confidence, resilience and independence, understanding that mistakes are part of the creative process and essential for growth, helping pupils to thrive as learners (James 1:4).

Be Challenged to Exceed, achieving high standards by developing technical skills, evaluating their own and others' work, and making meaningful connections across the curriculum and real life (Colossians 3:23).

Pupils are encouraged to express ideas and emotions creatively and thoughtfully, using art as a means of reflection, communication and personal development. As a Christian community, we value relationships and collaboration, ensuring pupils feel they belong, respect one another's ideas and celebrate individuality (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Our vision is that every child will leave St Mary's as a confident,

reflective and enthusiastic artist who has achieved their potential, thrived creatively, and understands their responsibility to use their gifts positively as salt and light in the world (Matthew 5:13–16).

Aims:

Through the teaching of art, we aim to ensure that all pupils:

- Develop a love of art and creativity, building confidence, enjoyment and a sense of belonging.
- Achieve progressively higher levels of skill in drawing, painting, sculpture, printing and mixed media.
- Explore and experiment with a wide range of materials, tools and techniques.
- Learn about artists, craftspeople and designers from different cultures and historical periods.
- Evaluate and reflect on their own work and that of others using appropriate vocabulary.
- Make meaningful connections between art and other areas of the curriculum.
- Thrive creatively from their individual starting points, with high expectations for all pupils, including those with additional needs and those working at greater depth.
- Work collaboratively and respectfully, valuing different ideas, perspectives and creative approaches.

Why is Art Important?

Art is important because it nurtures creativity, self-expression and emotional development, helping children to belong, achieve and thrive. At St Mary's, art supports pupils' academic, social and spiritual growth by:

- Encouraging creativity and imagination
- Building confidence and resilience
- Supporting emotional and spiritual development
- Promoting cultural understanding
- Developing fine motor skills and visual awareness
- Enhancing learning across the curriculum
- Reflecting beauty and creativity in God's creation

Teaching, Assessment and Inclusion

Art at St Mary's is taught through a carefully sequenced curriculum from EYFS to Year 6. Teaching is inclusive, ambitious and structured to ensure all pupils feel they belong, are supported to achieve, and are enabled to thrive creatively. Assessment is ongoing and formative, informing planning and ensuring pupils experience success. Pupils with SEND are supported through reasonable adjustments to ensure equal access to learning and achievement.