

5 Pits Partnership Arts Policy

This arts policy was originally developed by the 5 Pits Partnership of Schools and has been developed in keeping with our MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING. We seek to improve opportunities and outcomes for all pupils in order to build a culture focussed on achievement and aspiration that is ambitious for all pupils. It is set within a framework that expects and seeks to attain the highest possible achievement from our pupils regardless of their race, sex, disability or background, through the promotion of shared values which we endeavour to uphold and live by.

Vision

Through The Arts (Art and Design, Music, Drama, Dance) we aim to provide dynamic, inclusive artistic and cultural experiences where success is created through exciting opportunities. As a group of schools who are all committed to providing a range of outdoor and active learning opportunities, we wish to embed our arts curriculum with outdoor and active learning to improve the outcomes of our pupils. Through all of The Arts, we intend to build on good practice of outdoor and active learning through which pupils gain confidence, improve self-esteem, and improve their physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.

Wherever possible The Arts will contribute to every child learning and applying the skills they need to read and write effectively and provide links to develop children's mathematical learning and ability in relevant ways.

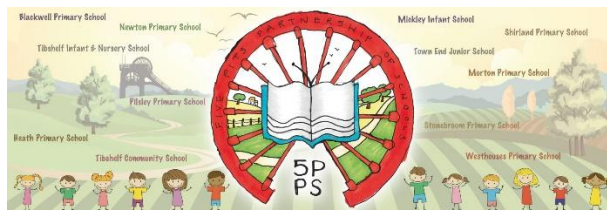
We will organise opportunities for children to learn and experience new settings and challenges to support active and outdoor learning. These may include a variety of live events such as: drama and dance festivals, art competitions and displays in a range of media and forms, visits to theatres, visits from arts organisations and practitioners, and pupil performances. All children will have the opportunity to take part in a public performance within an aspect of the arts.

Principles of Learning and Teaching in The Arts

The Arts are important because:

- They stimulate creativity and imagination through visual, tactile and sensory experiences
- They provide visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a unique way of understanding and responding to the world
- They can motivate and promote self-esteem and confidence in all pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Through activities in The Arts children learn to make informed value judgements and aesthetic and practical decisions, becoming actively involved in shaping environments





- The Arts enable children to explore ideas and emotions through the work of artists, musicians, dancers, actors and designers
- Children develop understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of The Arts that have the power to enrich their lives

Aims and Objectives

Children will:

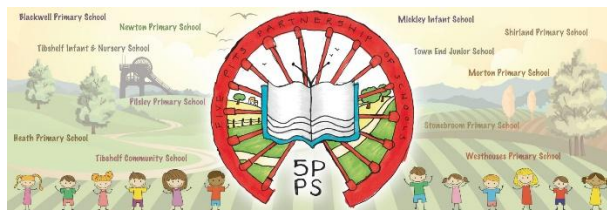
- Develop an understanding and enjoyment of Art and Design, Music, Drama and Dance
- Explore a range of starting points for practical work, for example themselves and their experiences, images, stories, drama, music, maths, science, natural and made objects, beliefs and faiths, cultures and environments
- Extend their understanding and appreciation of The Arts from a variety of artists, musicians, actors, dancers and designers working in different times countries and cultures
- Develop the ability to observe, investigate, respond to and record the world around them through a variety of art forms
- Develop their artistic, dramatic, musical and creative skills through a skills based curriculum that ensures progression between year groups, using a range of personnel, opportunities, materials and processes including ICT
- Make increasingly informed and creative choices of media, instruments (including voice) and techniques for a given purpose
- Use their artistic, musical, dramatic and creative skills to enhance learning and enjoyment in other curriculum areas
- Have the opportunity to perform creativity and work collaboratively
- Develop artistic skills through outdoor and active learning opportunities.

Partnerships, Learning Communities and Professional Development of Staff

Westhouses Primary School will build and develop partnerships with Tibshelf Schools Federation and Blackwell Primary school, The Mighty Creatives (TMC), local and regional arts organisations and practitioners.

As a triad of schools, Westhouses Primary, Tibshelf Schools Federation and Blackwell Primary school will coordinate opportunities for our schools to work together. Arts Coordinators will meet on a regular basis to develop creative practice and support each other in raising attainment within The Arts and promoting status of The Arts within their schools. Staff from across these schools will have access to CPD through in-house training at staff meetings or training days and through working alongside arts organisation and practitioners, as required.





Resources & Sustainable Investment

- Individual school budgets account for funding for the arts within the school curriculum.
- Schools may raise additional money to support the cost of events through fund raising events and charitable donations.
- The Arts Specialist Lead from each school will undertake periodic audits of resources that can be accessed and shared by partnership schools.
- TMC will signpost funding opportunities for arts projects and/or events that are open for partnership schools to bid for.
- CPD training will ensure that the relevant specialist skills needed to deliver arts activities outlined in the Arts policy are refreshed and extended and that a pool of expertise is created that can be accessed by all partnership schools.





'The Arts' is defined as Art, Music, Dance and Drama within our school curriculum. Each of these subjects is incorporated into daily planning, teaching and learning to offer a creative curriculum.

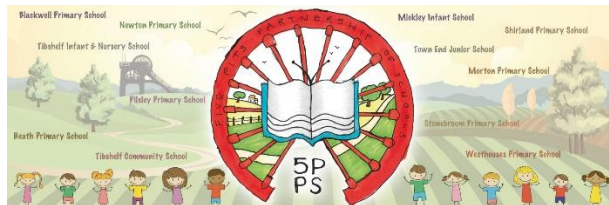
At Westhouses Primary School we firmly believe that every child is entitled to a full inclusive education which enables them to express themselves and be creative in their own ways. We are committed to enhancing and enriching every child's learning, incorporating the arts curriculum into each subject by planning a creative learning journey throughout the school.

We wish to provide our children with opportunities to learn about themselves and about the world not only through access to a broad arts curriculum but also through opportunities to perform, share and celebrate their successes, talents and experiences.

At Westhouses Primary School, our teaching and learning is embedded in our family values, and we believe our continuous development of arts provision is allowing us to nurture positive, supportive and encouraging individuals with their own special strengths, talent and accomplishments.

At Westhouses Primary School our overarching policy for the arts aims to:

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- Promote an atmosphere of enjoyment and competence where children are self-motivated and strive to achieve their potential.
- Develop and promote pupils' understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultures and varied social and physical environments in which they live, both locally and globally.
- Encourage pupils to investigate, make judgments and solve problems.
- Provide pupils with the necessary language and artistic skills to realise and communicate their intentions and visions.
- Develop pupils' appreciation and understanding of the work of artists and performers.
- Develop pupils' engagement in active and outdoor learning opportunities, and hands-on learning experiences to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem.

Objectives

To achieve these aims, we will:

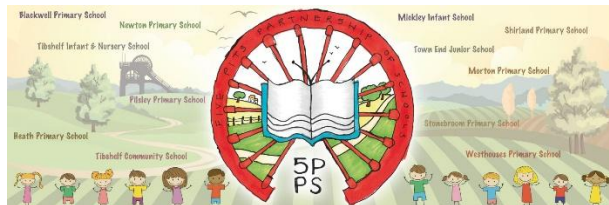
- Ensure children of every age, gender, ethnicity, religion, social background and ability have equal and, in certain cases, individualised access to the wide, holistic curriculum we offer at Westhouses.
- Draw on the artistic expertise of staff members and people in the wider communication; 5PP schools, parents, carers, governors and artists and performers in the locality who can teach skills, inspire individuals and deepen understanding of different art forms.
- Develop the expertise of staff members so that hands on, active and outdoor learning opportunities are at the fore front of our arts curriculum.
- Ensure children are given the opportunities to share and celebrate their achievements in the arts through displays and performances.
- Ensure staff members are continually developing their own artistic skills and understanding to inspire, influence and teach to the highest possible standard.
- Ensure pupil voice is valued when developing and planning our arts curriculum and wider experiences with the use of Arts Ambassadors.

Provision for the arts

Pupils' entitlement to the arts provision is guaranteed in three key ways:

1. Through a creatively planned and taught curriculum which ensures coverage and progression of key skills and which aims to make as many links between the arts as possible.
2. Through experiences linked to the whole school curriculum such as assemblies, singing sessions and concerts.
3. Through pupils own interests. This may be through involvement in after school clubs, arts events, and in pupil performances.





Teaching and Learning

The arts are taught as part of creative schemes of learning which have been developed in teachers planning. Individual Art and Music schemes are in place which ensure progression from Reception to year 6. We will continue to develop arts within the curriculum by identifying opportunities, within cross curricular themes, to develop the key skills of the arts national curriculum as well as in discrete sessions. Through the use of the arts across the curriculum, this will enable teachers to employ powerful and creative teaching approaches tailored to meet the needs of their groups, motivating children so that learning is enriched through interesting topics.

Every student will have the opportunity to take part in a performance each year whether that be live in person, live online or pre-recorded. One class will receive tuition in an instrument each year in line with our wider opportunities, which will involve performances throughout the year.

Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

Assessment through the key stages is continuous and subsequent evaluations inform future planning, matching work to the abilities and needs of the children.

Computing

Computing packages and software programmes are used to support the arts throughout the school.

Links to the School Improvement Plan

- The school has completed its first undertaking of the Artsmark to develop the arts throughout the curriculum and the school is currently completing its second Artsmark process.
- The school now facilitates Arts Award for 6 Arts Ambassadors in school each year.
- The school is improving its use of pupil voice to ensure our wider arts experiences, celebrations and provision is guided by the children at Westhouses Primary School. The Arts Ambassadors play a vital role in organising and promoting wider Arts Opportunities in school.
- We are committed to working with Tibshelf Schools Federation and Blackwell Primary School in order to support one another in our Arts curriculum.

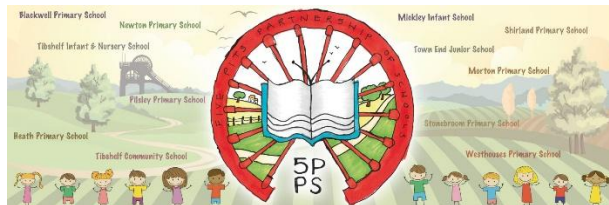
Health and Safety

Care is taken to ensure that all instruments and equipment is handled carefully and under supervision.

Equal Opportunities

We passionately believe that all children are entitled to access our curriculum irrespective of age, gender, race, religion and social background. We feel that our approach to a creative curriculum and thematic teaching means that the arts make a vital contribution to the development of tolerance and understanding.





We also aim to make access to the arts inclusive for children with special education needs (SEN). Their learning needs are monitored and necessary help and support is provided to ensure they reach their full potential. This is reflected in teachers' planning where children with specific needs are identified and differentiated for.

Policies for Equal Opportunities, Equality and Diversity, Race Equality, and SEND provide further details of our vision for a teaching and learning environment where everyone and their differences are valued, respected and nurtured.

Arts Provision outside the Curriculum

At Westhouses Primary School we aim to develop our provision for all pupils across all art forms. We ask the children for their thoughts and ideas about the provision they would most prefer to participate in and use their responses to decide what we offer. We also utilise staff members' strengths across the arts to offer children the best extended opportunities as possible.

We continually seek to develop our extended art provision which includes:

- 1-1 and 1-2 musical instrument lessons
- Providing visits to museums, galleries, places of worship, theatre productions and musical concerts
- Participation in drama, dance and music performances on site
- Weekly singing sessions
- Daily Music appreciation
- Becoming involved in events with local schools
- Forest Schools
- Visits from local and regional artists.
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Signed by Headteacher: _____ Date: _____

Signed by Chair of GB: _____ Date: _____

Revised September 2024

To be reviewed September ____

