

Visual Arts Policy Statement

St. Joseph's N.S.

Rational:

The purpose of this policy is to provide an overview of visual arts in our school. It will also provide frameworks for classroom planning and it will give information to our staff, Board of Management and parents about the practice of visual arts in our school.

Vision Statement:

In line with our "Mission Policy" –[which in part states " to provide a well ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual , spiritual , physical , moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and addressed"] and with the principal of the 1999 curriculum , we as a staff believe that visual arts plays a vital part in helping us to achieve the aims we have for our children in our care.

In visual arts education we aim to:

- Emphasise the process children engage in while doing art over the product
- Provide a broad and balanced programme i.e. children will have the opportunities to engage in all 6 strands
- Give our children ample opportunities to look at and respond to works of art
- Provide art activities to the children at the appropriate level as we recognise the differences in stages of development that children are at.

The strand of the Curriculum in our school:

Drawing

Exploring and experimenting with drawing materials and tools on a variety of surfaces.

Drawings based on children's own experiences.

Drawings based on children's own observations.

Drawings based on children's own imaginations.

Looking and responding to drawings [each child's drawings, the drawings of other children and the drawings of artists].

Paint and Colour

Exploring and experimenting with paint and colour materials and tools on a variety of surfaces.

Using paint and colour to depict children's own experiences.

Using paint and colour to record children's own observations.

Using paint and colour to represent children's own imaginations.

Looking and responding to work in paint and colour [the child's work, paintings of other children and the work of artists].

Print

Exploring and experimenting with printing materials and tools.

Exploring a variety of print-making techniques e.g. wax resist and mono printing.

Using print to represent children's own experiences , observations and imaginations.

Looking at and responding to print in everyday use, in the environment and in work of art.

Clay

Exploring and experimenting with clay and clay tools.

Exploring clay techniques e.g. pinch pots and coil pots.

Using clay as a medium for representing children's experiences, observations and imagination.

Exploring other materials to develop the concept of form e.g. plasticine and papier-mache .

Construction

Exploring and experimenting with a variety of construction materials.

Construction games and toys.

Making imaginative structures to represent children's own experiences , observations and imaginations.

Looking at and responding to natural and built structures.

Fabric and Fibre

Exploring and experimenting with a variety of fabrics and fibres

Changing the surface of fabrics

Creating new fabrics e.g. weaving and knitting [3rd class upwards]

Constructing with fabrics and fibre

Using fabrics and fibres to represent children's own experiences , observations and imaginations.

Looking at and responding to work in fabric and fibre.

Children with different needs

Boys and girls in our school , regardless of ability will be given equal opportunity to participate in all art activities. Special needs assistants will help our children with special needs.

Opportunity for linkage and integration

We encourage linkage of the strands as this provides children with an enriched visual arts experience. We see the abundance of opportunities for integration with all subject areas and strongly encourage it.

Time

Because of the nature of the subject, we have a flexible approach to the use of time as follows- discrete art time and / or blocked art time for project work. We will adhere overall to the recommended time allotments as outlined in the “Introductory Statement” of the 1999 Curriculum. [p. 70]

Display

It is our policy to display children’s artwork in the classroom , in the corridors, at First Communion and on our school web site. At times our children’s artwork is displayed locally as part of the Community Games Art Competition. We have some prints on display throughout the school for use in classes as part of our looking and responding programme.

Assessment

We will emphasise assessment of the creative process over the finished product. We also assess children’s ability to make personal responses to artwork. Assessment will be done by informal teacher observation on a regular basis and by teacher-designed tasks. Folders to be made for each child, in which a sample of their artwork will be kept. Photographs of art display to be shown on school web site.