

Art and Design



"At Ellington Primary School, art and design gives us the knowledge and skills to experiment and create our own works of art, craft and design."

Art and Design Overview

At Ellington Primary School, we value our high-quality art and design curriculum. Art and design is an important part of developing our children's ability to express their ideas, develop their individual creativity and to work both individually and collaboratively with others. Our aim is to ensure that children are confident in approaching artwork, feel a strong sense of achievement, value the impact of art within our own lives and are able to reach their full potential. Art and design at Ellington Primary School is about giving children the skills, concepts and knowledge necessary for them to express responses to ideas and experiences in a visual or tactile form. It fires their imagination and is a fundamental means of personal expression.

At Ellington Primary School, we follow the National Curriculum, which aims to ensure that all children:

- Produce creative work, exploring ideas and recording experiences.
- To become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques.
- Evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design.
- Know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

Please find National Curriculum document here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-art-and-design-programmes-of-study>

Intent

At Ellington Primary School, we value our high-quality art and design curriculum. Art and design is an important part of developing our children's ability to express their ideas, develop their individual creativity and to work both individually and collaboratively with others. Our aim is to ensure that children are confident in approaching artwork, feel a strong sense of achievement, value the impact of art within our own lives and are able to reach their full potential. Art and design at Ellington Primary School is about giving children the skills, concepts and knowledge necessary for them to express responses to ideas and experiences in a visual or tactile form. It fires their imagination and is a fundamental means of personal expression.

Our curriculum drivers are at the core of everything we do and underpin our shared belief that our role is to raise children's aspirations, develop independent thinking and learn about cultures, families and ways of life that may be different to our own. We believe it is our responsibility to show children that there is a world of opportunities awaiting them. We also strive to encourage a love of learning, and a metacognitive understanding of how we can best learn and self-regulate.

Our art and design curriculum is driven by our curriculum drivers and key concepts:

Aspirations

To develop a culture of high aspirations within art and design at Ellington Primary School, we create a level platform where all children feel they can achieve, create and thrive in art and design. We teach children that their art work is as unique as we are as individuals. We balance clear taught skills with recognition of children's individual style, interests and creativity. Furthermore, we expose children to original work created by other artists, craft makers and designers to raise children's creative aspirations and to accelerate their progress.

Wider World

Our art and design curriculum enables children to use reference materials which can be drawn from the works of famous and local artists and designers from the past and present. Through experiencing and exploring such work and having contextual discussions, our curriculum develops pupils' learning and understanding of the wider world, celebrating diversity by promoting a positive school culture that values and respecting diversity.

Independent Thinking

Our art and design curriculum allows children space to attempt putting new learning into practice, this type of active learning supports working memory and helps children to embed key knowledge. In the teaching of art and design at Ellington Primary School, we thrive to ignite creativity, set challenges, encourage independent thinking and support exploration where children can invent and create their own works of art, craft and design. This enables children to build on prior knowledge and experiences and develop their self-confidence and independence. As children progress, they are able to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of art and design.

Implementation

The teaching and implementation of our art and design curriculum at Ellington Primary School is based on Kapow Primary. We provide full curriculum coverage for art and design which develops pupils' skills and knowledge across four key areas: Drawing, Painting and mixed media, Sculpture and 3D and Craft and design.

Art, craft and design embody some of the highest forms of human creativity. The high- quality teaching of art and design at Ellington Primary School engages, inspires and challenges children, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design. Creativity is encouraged from the very beginning of our children's school experience. Within the early year's foundation stage (EYFS), children are immersed in art in a child- initiated way.

As children progress through Ellington Primary School, they become able to think creatively and critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of art and design. Through providing inspiring experiences, this enables our children to know how art and design both reflect and shape our history, and contribute to the culture, creativity and wealth of our nation.

What will I see if I visit an Art lesson at Ellington?

Knowledge check: An opportunity at the beginning of the lesson to revisit prior learning to support with the recall and retention of key knowledge as well as addressing misconceptions.

Creative, quality first teaching: Teachers at Ellington Primary School work collaboratively with children to bring children's learning to life. Teachers ensure that all children including those with special educational needs access high quality teaching to ensure they have the tools and resources they need to succeed.

Clear instruction: Teachers will deliver lessons which have been carefully planned and modelled to provide the best possible teaching and support for the children.

Skillful questioning: Questioning is carefully planned into the curriculum to aid discussion with children about their work. Staff use responses to form parts of the assessment process, reflecting on the children's understanding of what has been taught.

Work we are proud of: We celebrate beautiful work driven by our value of 'Pride' we teach children the importance of well-presented, carefully planned work. At Ellington Primary School, we believe every child is an artist.

Creative, Safe and Supportive Environment: Children and adults work together to make classrooms safe and happy places to be. Mistakes are celebrated and seen as opportunities to learn. Children are reminded of personal safety and risk assessment. We use the Zones of Regulation to support children in making positive choices around their behaviour and refer to class charters and school rules.

Links to our curriculum drivers and school values: Wherever possible, teachers highlight links to curriculum drivers and school values so that children recognise their importance and support their learning. For example, links may be made with careers relevant to that subject or unit of work.

Lock it in: Completed in the plenary, this activity is an opportunity to assess key learning from the lesson and is used to support future planning.

Impact

At Ellington Primary School, our Art and Design curriculum is delivered through the expertly structured Kapow Primary programme which nurtures creativity, confidence, and curiosity in every child. Through a well-sequenced, skills-based approach that integrates both practical technique and creative exploration, pupils build a strong appreciation for artistic expression.

By the time they leave us, our children have:

- Developed a comprehensive understanding of the formal elements of art, including line, colour, shape, tone, form, and texture.
- Gained confidence using a wide range of materials, tools, and techniques from drawing and painting to sculpture, collage, digital media, and printmaking.
- Learned to critically evaluate their own work and that of others, understanding how art reflects and shapes history, culture, and identity.
- Cultivated resilience, imagination, and independence, essential creative skills that transfer into all areas of life and learning.

Assessment is ongoing and purposeful, ensuring that every child progresses from their individual starting point and is challenged appropriately. Pupil voice, sketchbooks, and final outcomes demonstrate a clear journey of learning, experimentation, and reflection.

Our curriculum inspires children to see themselves as artists. It equips them with the skills and self-belief to express their ideas with originality and purpose, both now and in the future.