

# Art and SMSC

Art at Fairfields contributes to children's 'Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural' (SMSC) development in a number of ways.

Art is such a powerful medium, evoking feelings of awe and wonder as children look at and appreciate the works of the great artists. This develops their aesthetic appreciation and develops their discerning eye, as they decide for themselves what they like and dislike in art both ancient and modern. Whilst the children are immersed in our art topics, they will always look at the works of a variety of artists. The children study the works of Kandinsky, Andy Goldsworthy, Matisse, Vincent Van Gogh, Cezanne to name just a few, and also learn about designers and illustrators such as Quentin Blake. They derive enjoyment and fascination through this learning and it allows for imagination and creativity as they produce their own works using a variety of media.

The children are able to reflect on nature, their environment and their surroundings through the variety of art topics covered across the years and how this has impacted art around us we see today.

We have been fortunate to have had art workshops during art weeks with visiting artists (pre-Covid!) such as 'Van Gogh' and 'Henri Rousseau' based around a theme. During these visits the children learnt about the artists' work and life; the artist showed the children how the paintings of the Sunflowers and Jungle scenes were created and children got to experiment with a range of tools and creative techniques. We are looking forward to reintroducing these live workshops to school as soon as we are able.

Art always tells a story and the older pupils learn about how artists can be activists and use art as a way to express their opinions, using their skills to speak for different sectors of society and communities. The children will look at the issues and feelings which can arise from the history and politics surrounding this.

For the past few years, our children have exhibited their work at open evenings in a proper exhibition in the school hall and studio building. Their work is framed and displayed in a professional manner for the children to experience their very own gallery. The children view the work from all years and this allows them to appreciate, and also critique, their work and the works of others. Why not come and view our next exhibition which will be at our next Open Evening in July? We also have a mini display of the fabulous work displayed from the art gallery around the corridors of our school.

Our Year 6 children are also able to visit an art gallery at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, viewing beautiful works of art, masterpiece paintings and historical artefacts bringing the art experience to life!

In 2019, we successfully bid to have a selection of art works from the County Collection. These are now displayed in school for the enjoyment of all. The children are thereby able to explore and enjoy human achievements and creativity, inspiring them to produce their own great art work.

*"I found I could say things with colour and shapes that I couldn't say any other way - things I had no words for."*

Georgia O'Keeffe