

At Nelson Academy, we recognise the vital role of art and design in allowing curiosity, creativity and self-expression to develop alongside resilience, confidence and critical thinking skills. In creating a wide range of products and artwork, these skills can then transfer to other areas of the curriculum. Visual arts and Design Technology enhance every subject area and bring learning to life. Those less confident in purely academic subjects, or with language barriers, can express themselves fully in these practical subjects.

Year on year, our curriculum introduces every member of our school community to a wide range of art and artists, including those who are contemporary, from different periods and from various cultures. These experiences, in turn, help create world citizens with an understanding of how art impacts and enhances societies and our surroundings. High priority is given to opportunities for discussion, commentating on what we have seen, and talking through ideas and plans for our own work. Every year, there is a clear progression of skills, which build on prior learning – such as use of tools and techniques with increasing mastery. Each class in school keeps their own Arts Sketchbook which records responses to art, photos of work produced and also involvement in the Arts from beyond the classroom. This raises the profile of artwork and DT projects the children complete in their own time.

Our involvement in NNOS (Norfolk and Norwich Open Studios), and Artsmark run alongside and complement our 'Arts' curriculum. We are an Arts Award Centre and are continually developing links with arts organisations, which allow our students to work with professional artists and galleries. This extra provision allows skills learnt to be used in collaborative and self-lead work, sharing our learning with our community and other schools.

The impact of our Art and DT Curriculum is that it equips us to be risk takers, evaluators and reflective and engaged learners. We will have a good knowledge of art and culture, will have developed individual preferences and made choices which will have a positive life-long impact on our responses to creativity.