

An overarching arts  
policy for

Skelton Primary  
School

This includes art,  
music, drama and  
dance

October 2007

## A definition of the arts policy

At Skelton Primary School we believe that the Arts encompass a wide range of subject areas and disciplines including Music, Dance, Drama, Art and Design. Arts at our school means providing our pupils not only with the opportunity to learn about and participate in each of these areas, but also providing them with the platform from which to be creative, to express themselves, find success and share these experiences, talents and abilities through performance.

## Mission Statement

At Skelton Primary School we are committed to providing all children with the opportunities to engage and succeed in the Arts, regardless of background, language and or special needs through high quality, differentiated teaching. We encourage children to share and explore both their own and new diverse cultural experiences in the Arts. The school's commitment to inclusion is further detailed in our equal opportunities and inclusion policies.

Within the school's strategic vision plan, we aim to enable children to achieve high standards through a creative and enriching curriculum.

We are passionate about developing and promoting the Arts through an enjoyable, creative and cross curricular approach. As well as focussed high quality teaching of the National Curriculum Programs of Study in classes, we enrich our children's learning and experiences of the Arts through a range of school time and after school specialist club opportunities.

We are also committed to providing opportunities for our pupils to share and perform their abilities and talents in the Arts both during a range of events in school and in the wider community. At Skelton Primary School, we aim to ensure that all our children enjoy, thrive, succeed and achieve their potential in the Arts.

At Skelton Primary School we strive to become a leading school for the Arts.

## Arts experiences inside and outside the formal curriculum.

The arts curriculum is taught in a flexible way throughout the school. Within each Key Stage and Year Group, art, music and dance are taught both explicitly and through cross-curricular links. Dance and drumming is taught explicitly in Key Stage 1 and 2, both by school staff and by specialist teachers through our Sports Partnership and Tees Valley Music service respectively. Such specialist teaching also serves as high quality INSET for our own staff, who are always present during lessons. All arts subjects are also taught in a more holistic manner through performing arts opportunities and creative curriculum planning.

### **Arts teaching within the taught curriculum**

In all three Key Stages the arts are taught both explicitly and through a creative cross curricular, thematic approach to learning.

This has been in place since 2003 and is now well embedded in the school's planning cycles.

### **Arts teaching outside the taught curriculum**

Whole school singing takes place each week for 30 mins.

Foundation stage/Key stage 1 and Key Stage 2 each have separate, weekly singing assemblies (25 minutes each).

Weekly whole school choir (3/4 hour per week)

Peripatetic music lessons for individual children (3 x 1/2 hour per week) – brass, strings and keyboards

Gifted and Talented singing coaching for KS1 and 2 (2 hrs per week)

Various after school clubs for the arts e.g. dance, card making, cartoon making, art, (1 hour each).

Opportunities to take part in competitions and exhibitions within the school and outside of school.

Regular assemblies, Christmas and summer concerts, choir concerts rehearsals and performances.

Numerous visits from artists, musicians and theatre groups to perform for or work with the children.

## The range of experiences offered

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

1. Through class teaching, linked to the National Curriculum:

- The programmes of study set out in the National Curriculum 2000 express the specific learning objectives for individual pupils.
- In order to meet National Curriculum objectives and to ensure progress across the school, staff plan make use of a number of schemes including QCA, TOPS and Music Express.
- Development of a creative curriculum across the school to ensure cross curricular and cross artform links are made.
- The combination of the above allows skill specific teaching in the areas of art, music, drama and dance as well as more holistic teaching and learning (including performing).
- We are able to provide a number of ICT led arts activities within the school as we have a selection of technology which allows the children to explore this area. Children have access to digital cameras, video cameras, digital movie makers, tape recorders, CD players, various music and art software e.g. Musical Monsters, Music Explorer

2. From experiences linked to the whole school curriculum:

- All children also have opportunities to develop skills though music assemblies, where ongoing skills are taught and practiced.
- Class assemblies. Children in every class have the opportunity to practice a variety of arts each year. They may experience writing, acting, singing, dancing, scenery creation and decoration, costume making etc. The class then performs the assembly which gives them presenting and performing opportunities. This is a fantastic opportunity for the rest of the school to enjoy and celebrate the performing arts as an audience.
- Children may also choose to take part in the school choir. This performs both in and out of school and rehearses after school and at lunchtimes.
- There are several opportunities each year for children to work together on whole school performances. These include the summer and Christmas concerts where children perform as a whole school, Key Stage or choir. There are also opportunities for individuals to perform. These concerts incorporate art, drama, music and dance.

3. Through pupils' own interests, including activities which are part of study support:
- There is an extensive range of after school clubs which are run on site. Children have access to all the after school clubs which include music, art, drama and dance opportunities.
  - Children may choose peripatetic individual or small group music lessons in keyboard, brass, strings, singing and recorder.
  - There are opportunities for Gifted and Talented children to take part in arts projects e.g. with other schools, competitions, workshops.
  - Opportunities for parents and carers to work on arts projects (with children or independently).
  - Children are encouraged to share their own interests in other ways in the school e.g. show and tell sessions and community events such as School Fairs, Art Exhibitions, summer celebrations etc.

### The arts qualifications and expertise of staff, with commitments to further training

There is an Assistant Head Teacher with an overarching responsibility for the arts. There is a TLR post for a teacher to co-ordinate the work of the subject leaders for each of the following subjects: Music, Art, PE (incl. dance) and Drama. These subject leaders have access to professional development both in and out of school and also organise for other staff to receive professional development.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team work as mentors for TLRs and subject leaders to deepen their understanding of subject leadership. Teachers with TLR responsibilities have the opportunity to carry out lesson observations in their subject. The creative arts (through cross-curricular planning), is one of the school's key targets in the 2007/8 School Improvement Plan.

In our school we have specifically trained staff in various areas of the arts, including fine arts graduates in art, textiles and 3D work, drama specialists, musicians and ICT lead teachers. Staff benefit from skill sharing, extensive resources and thorough research.

## Arts facilities

1. Two hall with stages, sound systems, screens and microphones
2. Access to a community sports hall
3. Sure Start family centre with art and music facilities
4. Music / art / drama room (with large selection of musical instruments)
5. ICT suites with music and art software installed (also installed on classroom computers)
6. Digital cameras in every year group
7. Digital blue movie maker machines
8. Video cameras
9. Art display screens for displaying children's artwork
10. Free access to extensive facilities and staff at the CLC
11. Free access to drama facilities at the local secondary schools

## Aims and Objectives

Aim	Objectives
For <b>all</b> children to engage, progress, enjoy and express themselves through a variety of artforms, to explore values, attitudes, feelings and meanings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide an arts curriculum of quality, range and depth.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide opportunities for cross-curricular work.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide opportunities for pupils to learn about the arts of diverse cultures.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide opportunities to develop self-esteem, confidence and maturity through participation in the arts.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that arts teachers have access to regular continuing professional development that refreshes their own creativity and keeps them up to date with developments in the arts.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide Gifted and Talented children to develop their skills further.</li> </ul>
Develop children's interest in and ability to create, appreciate and make critical judgements about artworks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Give all pupils opportunities to observe, plan, design, complete and perform/exhibit in a range of artforms.</li> </ul>
Encourage pupils to work as individuals and in groups to share arts experiences and present artworks to others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Give all pupils an opportunity to exhibit/perform at least twice a year (class assemblies).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Give all pupils the opportunity to take part in an out of hours opportunity.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Present arts work to parents and the community at least four times a year (class assemblies, Harvest and Christmas concerts).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> To continue to work with other local schools on arts projects e.g. Highgate Secondary School.</li> </ul>
Developing an understanding of the role of the arts in our community and society (and of different cultures), including as a career.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Offer all pupils an opportunity to work alongside professional artists.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Promote achievement in the arts amongst children.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take pupils to see work exhibited and performed by professional artists.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to work with parents, carers and children on family arts projects e.g. Black History Month family art project.</li> </ul>

## **Assessment and Reporting**

Learning outcomes are identified for each lesson. Assessment opportunities are identified within the weekly planning and are measured against the criteria set for the learning outcomes. Pupils are made aware of the learning outcomes for all lessons (W.A.L.T.). Assessment in the arts can take various forms:

- Self evaluation and review
- Progression
- Observation
- Peer evaluation

Pupils' progress in the arts is reported regularly through consultation with parents, pupils' self review through an I.L.P. and the annual report.

## How the school resources, implements and monitors the policy

The Headteacher and Governing Body of Skelton Primary School allocate budgets to the SLT who manage the budgets for the year. Art, music, drama, PE and Literacy have a combined arts budget which is overseen by one of the assistant head teachers. The arts budget has been significantly increased in the 2006 – 7 budget to reflect the high priority given to the arts. Budgets are allocated for the purchase of resources and training in each subject.

The Parents' Association for the school also fund raises throughout the year and subject leaders can make applications to the PA for funding.

There are also local organisations which subject leaders and Senior Leadership Team can apply to for funding for projects and resources for the school. Staff are also encouraged to, and are very successful in submitting bids to acquire additional funding.

This policy is for the 2007/8 academic year and subject leaders and the Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the routine implementation of this arts policy. In addition to the overarching policy, there are separate policies for art, drama, music and P.E. including dance. The policy will be annually reviewed by the Governing Body. Every three years all policies are reviewed in depth and updated as necessary.