

Art & Design

Intent

At Mount Tamar School, Art & Design provides students with rich visual, tactile and sensory experiences that promote creativity, self-expression and wellbeing. Through both classroom and outdoor learning, pupils develop artistic skills while building confidence, resilience and personal independence. Our curriculum focuses on the mastery of a range of artistic media, including drawing, painting, clay, printmaking, sculpture and 2D and 3D forms, alongside the formal elements of art: line, shape, form, tone, texture, colour, pattern and space.

Art plays a vital role in helping students communicate emotions, improve wellbeing and understand different perspectives. It provides a powerful creative outlet that supports personal growth, empathy and self-confidence.

Implementation

Art & Design is delivered through a bespoke curriculum aligned with National Curriculum expectations and carefully sequenced to build knowledge, skills and understanding across Key Stages 2 and 3. Learning is structured to progressively develop pupils' artistic skills, techniques and creative thinking.

Teachers use live modelling and explicit instruction to demonstrate artistic processes, reducing cognitive overload and enabling pupils to develop confidence before working independently. Through the "I do, We do, You do" approach, students are supported to master techniques, experiment with materials and apply their learning creatively. The curriculum exposes pupils to a wide range of artists, artistic movements and cultural influences, helping them to understand how art reflects and shapes society. Learning takes place within a supportive environment that values individual expression, encourages risk-taking and celebrates creativity.

Impact

The impact of Art & Design is reflected not only in final outcomes but also in the creative journey pupils undertake. Sketchbooks provide evidence of experimentation, reflection, retrieval of knowledge and the gradual refinement of skills. They demonstrate the development of artistic thinking, resilience and independence over time.

By the time pupils leave Mount Tamar School, they will have developed practical artistic skills, an understanding of artistic processes and an appreciation of the role of art in culture and society. They will be able to think creatively, communicate visually and apply their knowledge with confidence, enabling them to engage with and contribute to the visual world around them.