

CANTRELL PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



POLICY FOR THE ARTS

February 2022



Artsmark
AWARDED BY ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Introduction

This policy reflects Cantrell Primary and Nursery School's values and philosophy in relation to the teaching and learning of The Arts. It sets out a framework within which, teaching and non-teaching staff can operate and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment. It is set within a framework that expects and seeks to attain the highest possible achievement from our pupils regardless of their race, sex, disability or background, through the promotion of shared values which we endeavour to uphold and live by.



This policy recognises the huge challenges faced by educators to provide creative learning at a time of pandemic and post-pandemic recovery. It is intended as a mission statement for The Arts (Art and Design, Music, Drama, Dance and Creative Writing) at a time when access and provision in the sector are under enormous strain and children's engagement with creative subjects, access to quality experiences and ability to share the fruit of their imaginations is facing the huge challenges posed by Covid-19.

However, this is not a policy of doom and gloom. Neither is it one based around a straightforward deficit model of combatting deprivation, filling in cultural gaps and chasing engagement in The Arts. Far from it! We recognise the wealth of art, culture and history that we are surrounded by and want to be an intrinsic part of the cultural eco-system that is all around us. We want to build up our pupils so that they understand that they are artists and that art is for everyone. To that end, we are delighted to work in partnership with the East Midlands bridge organisation: The Mighty Creative who have assisted us in establishing **The Creative Bulwell Schools Network** comprising:



- Cantrell Primary and Nursery School (Lead School)
- The Bulwell Academy (secondary)
- Crabtree Farm Primary School
- Rufford Primary and Nursery School



- Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Primary School
- Snape Wood Primary and Nursery School
- Bulwell St Marys Primary and Nursery School

This family of schools, centred around the historical Nottingham market town of Bulwell, are all committed to Artsmark and looking at ways of channelling our collective response to Covid in a way that has a broader, deeper impact than we could achieve individually. We aim to work collaboratively and use The Arts to promote recovery and well-being, not just for individual learners, but also the wider community. The Arts will be used by educators both to drive engagement and enjoyment across our curriculum but also to teach specific skills and as a discrete subject with challenging objectives.

Who should read this policy?

The policy document is intended for:

- ✓ all teaching and support staff
- ✓ school governors
- ✓ parents/carers
- ✓ LA advisors/inspectors
- ✓ inspection teams including Ofsted
- ✓ teaching students
- ✓ and anyone else who wants to find out what drives us to champion The Arts!

Copies are provided for school staff and governors available at our Reception and to view on our school website.



School Aims

Cantrell Primary is a caring and nurturing environment where we encourage all our children to aim to do their best each day. Our school motto of 'Harmony through Working Together' reflects our belief in the power of teamwork. This extends to the purposeful, professional link between staff and learners. We teach our children to respect themselves and show respect and appreciation for others. We provide an exciting curriculum so that all our pupils are able to develop their interests and talents and become happy, lifelong learners who acquire the skills, abilities and become confident adults. We motivate and inspire our pupils through providing Arts opportunities including; workshops, visits, performances, high quality music tuition, opportunities to learn about the environment and growing, links with other countries and a range of sporting activities and events.



Our school Aims to:

- + Provide all our pupils with a structured and disciplined framework - one where success is celebrated and challenges are set and met and where children are encouraged to explore opportunities creatively.
- + Continually improve standards of teaching and learning, focusing upon literacy, numeracy, and scientific investigation and developing pupils' ability to use ICT tools effectively.
- + Provide innovative, creative and challenging teaching.
- + Provide a broad and balanced curriculum that provides variety and equal opportunity for all pupils, allowing individuals to develop progressively and at their own rate.
- + Provide planned educational opportunities that teach pupils about responsible behaviour in order that they will mature into people who will make valuable contributions to our diverse and multicultural world and the environment we live in.
- + Involve parents and community in the daily life of the school to achieve common goals through partnership.
- + Celebrate our diversity and actively promote knowledge and understanding of significant historical figures members of society from BAME backgrounds
- + Offer all staff and others involved with school the opportunity to continually develop their own skills, knowledge and understanding in order to meet both the school and their own needs

Artsmark



Arts Council England has seven Quality principles to raise the quality of work by, with and for children and young people. As an Artsmark school, we aim to deliver a curriculum in keeping with these principles. The Quality principles are embedded throughout the new Artsmark award to better support schools to achieve their ambitions for high quality arts and cultural provision. The seven Quality principles are:



1. Striving for excellence and innovation
2. Being authentic
3. Being exciting, inspiring and engaging
4. Ensuring a positive and inclusive experience

5. Actively involving children and young people
6. Enabling personal progression
7. Developing belonging and ownership

By following our approach children will:

- Develop an understanding and enjoyment of Art and Design, Music, Drama, Creative Writing and Dance
- Explore a range of starting points for practical work, for example themselves and their experiences, images, stories, drama, music, maths, science, natural and made objects, beliefs and faiths, cultures and environments
- Extend their understanding and appreciation of The Arts from a variety of artists, musicians, actors, Dancers and designers working in different times countries and cultures
- Develop the ability to observe, investigate, respond to and record the world around them through a variety of art forms
- Develop their artistic, dramatic, musical and creative skills through a skills-based curriculum that ensures progression between year groups, using a range of personnel, opportunities, materials and processes including ICT
- Make increasingly informed and creative choices of media, instruments (including voice) and techniques for a given purpose
- Use their artistic, musical, dramatic and creative skills to enhance learning and enjoyment in other curriculum areas
- Have the opportunity to perform creativity and work collaboratively



Subject Aims

Aim	Objective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure all children experience the richness of a broad arts curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide dedicated curriculum time for The Arts including Creative Writing, Art and Design, Dance, Drama and Music at Key Stages 1 and 2 explore innovative ways of bringing cultural activities into the classroom in a Covid-safe way provide a range of extra-curricular arts activities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide theme days where children in every class across the school take part in creative activities • use Cantrell's excellent environment to support and facilitate the development of The Arts (including the community garden, implementation of forest schools, outdoor story and role play areas and new staging in the hall). • provide a hub for parents to access information about local arts organisations and events. • planned opportunities provided by The Arts for children to know and celebrate the range of world cultures that are reflected in The Arts through local, regional, national and international sources • provide a balanced and well-planned curriculum which develops the pupil's artistic skills sequentially, taking into account their levels of development • continue to work with partners including The Bulwell Arts Festival, City Arts: Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University and our Creative Bulwell Schools network to contribute to an annual carnival event to celebrate the children's artistic successes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To engage with a variety of art forms, to explore values, attitudes, feelings and meanings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan programmes and other events with partner schools to sustain and increase opportunities for all • to ensure all children are able to visit/partake in professionally run performances/exhibitions/workshops • to promote pupils' self-esteem and encourage pupils to appreciate the achievement of others • celebrate the school's creativity each year via the Cantrell Carnival summer event • to take the opportunity to work with professional artists • develop and maintain links between Cantrell and our network of schools, including schools in the Bulwell EAZ, The Bulwell Academy and Top Valley Academy. • develop and maintain links with a wide range of Nottingham's cultural and artistic organisations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop children's ability to create, appreciate and make critical judgements about artworks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to develop a school curriculum that matches the National Curriculum but is individual to our context and needs • for a clear and well-planned progression in skills, techniques and knowledge to be followed through school linked to our curriculum plans • to embed our 'Arts Ambassadors' to include all four key areas of The Arts • to develop a love and appreciation of The Arts • teach the skills of peer and self-assessment by making the criteria for assessment explicit • to achieve a balance between the process, making and appraising

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide each child with opportunities to be inspired by The Arts and achieve success through The Arts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide our children with access to opportunities that celebrate their achievements in The Arts such as our embedded Arts Award programme and Arts Ambassador groups • ensure our arts facilities and resources are of the highest quality and accessible to the full range of children, including those who have special needs or are hard to reach • provide regular opportunities for The Arts to be celebrated in school with the school/local/wider community • to use the strengths of our school team to provide opportunities for the children to be supported in the development of their arts abilities. • to have high expectations and provide opportunities for all pupils to achieve, both boys and girls, pupils with special educational needs, pupils with disabilities and pupils from all social and cultural backgrounds • to provide training opportunities for young people delivered via our Arts Award programme • to promote and celebrate diversity within the framework of The Arts and champion BAME artists • to ensure that contemporary artists are studied and, where possible, worked with • to work with our partner school within the Creative Bulwell Schools network to establish a creative path for children to follow and access the higher levels of Arts Award • to promote The Arts as an important sector of the economy and promote careers in the creative industries
<p>These objectives will be implemented through action plans for individual arts subjects found in our School Development Plan.</p>	

Cantrell Creatives

The Cantrell Creatives are a flexible working/leadership group for The Arts which acts as an internal network to link together all aspects of art from the school community. We strongly believe in the wealth of talent possessed by the Cantrell staff and pupils and aim to continually challenge one another to develop exciting and innovative ways to engage children and celebrate creativity. Leaders in The Arts will attend ongoing CPD and networking events such as the Nottingham Schools Creative Schools Network and regular audits of CPD and the needs of our staff are undertaken by a lead practitioner alongside the individual subject leads (for example the Music Coordinator). We now look forward to working more closely with our local Primaries and the Bulwell Academy. We hope to be able to identify shared training needs and support each other through collaboration and group bookings of artists and experts in the field. To have a lead practitioner who is responsible for applying for funding for projects and working with the school's finance team to allocate budget for projects within The Arts.



Arts Award

Arts Award inspires young people to grow their arts and leadership talents, supporting the development of 21st century skills. Suitable for all abilities and age groups, Arts Award can be achieved at five levels, from Discover to Gold.

In partnership with The Mighty Creatives and Trinity College London, our school is proud to deliver a comprehensive Arts Award programme which is open to all. As part of our core curriculum offer, the award will be run across the full Year 4, 5 and 6 cohorts annually. In Year 4, pupils are introduced to Arts Award and complete a short programme of study to achieve the Discover certificate. In Year 5, the pupils undertake a more in-depth and reflective journey with an increased directed and independent learning and creating time allowing them the opportunity to earn the Explore certificate. In their final year at Cantrell, our Year 6 cohort are provided with the Bronze Arts Award. Crucially, we do not see the award as an optional extra or luxury for our children. Rather, it is a useful curriculum tool for delivering all the elements of The Arts and promoting achievement within the creative subjects. The children are awarded with a qualification of merit that celebrates their creativity and promotes leadership, creative partnerships, reflection and innovation.



Curriculum Statement – Art and Design

This subject encourages self-expression, creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a unique way of responding to the world. Pupils use colour, form, texture, pattern and various media and processes to communicate what they see, hear, feel and think. Through these activities, pupils learn to make informed value judgements and aesthetic and practical decisions. In this way, they are actively involved in shaping the environment at Cantrell. Pupils explore the ideas and meanings of Artists, Craftspeople and Designers. Pupils learn about the diverse roles and functions of Art, Craft and Design in contemporary life and in historical times and cultures.



Aims and Objectives

- To develop excellent standards throughout the school.
- To develop visual and physical awareness and good practice in art education.
- To be given opportunities to enjoy art, to express creatively and with imagination.
- To be able to record work.
- To become visually literate by experiencing the visual elements of Art.
- To develop critical power.
- To experience the Art of different cultures and times.
- To experience different media and to experiment.
- To learn about Design and Craft.

Curriculum Statement – Drama

We aim to make Drama an integral part of the school curriculum at Cantrell Primary School. In all subjects, including all pupils, drama can be taught through activities such as hot seating, role plays, conscience alleys, dramatic plays and freeze frames. We believe that drama develops the following specific skills:

- information-processing skills, e.g. sequencing and comparing
- reasoning skills, e.g. drawing inferences and making deductions
- enquiry skills, e.g. asking relevant questions and testing conclusions
- creative thinking skills, e.g. generating and extending ideas, applying imagination and looking for alternative endings
- evaluation skills, e.g. judging the value of their own and others' work

When teaching Drama we follow the model of: making, performing and responding. All classes and all children perform both to their peers and to parents through the school year. We value opportunities to celebrate festivals and traditions through school productions. As the children progress through the school, they become more confident at performing. This learning journey culminates in a sophisticated, highly anticipated Year 6 production.



Curriculum Statement – Dance

At Cantrell Primary School we believe that Dance is a powerful art form, in which children can develop a range of social skills involving team work, problem solving, communication, confidence and respect. Children should:

- Be able to work effectively as a group to choreograph routines.
- Explore body language and expression to communicate meaning in a Dance.
- Critically evaluate their own work and the work of others.
- Gain experience of a range of Dance styles including ballet, street Dance, theatre and modern.
- Create routines inspired by the work of professional choreographers.



Where possible, Dance should be used across the curriculum. For example, creating African style Dances when studying Rwanda, or when studying World War II routines can be created to popular music from the time.

Each Dance session should incorporate aspects of health and safety. A ten-minute warm-up needs to be included as well as a five-minute cool down.

During intensive lessons water should be made available to children. School PE kit should be worn, long hair will need to be tied back and all jewellery removed.

Curriculum Statement – Music

Music plays an important role in everyday life. We hear it all around us, we Dance to it, relax with it, are refreshed and stimulated by it. It is difficult to imagine a society without some form of music. Music should be an integral part of the school curriculum for each child. It can give great pleasure to children, and as well as enjoyment, contributes to the physical, social, intellectual, emotional and aesthetic areas of a child's growth. We expect all children to achieve the highest standards through the following: -

Aims and Objectives

Children at Cantrell will be given the opportunity to: -

- Enjoy making music – individually, with each other as a group, class, Key Stage or whole school.
- Explore and develop control of sounds made by the voice and a range of instruments, and be able to use these to describe ideas, moods and feelings.
- Translate sounds into symbols and vice versa, and, where appropriate, begin to develop an understanding of musical notation.

- Be confident in using their voices and be able to sing a number of songs from memory.
- To respond to the characteristics and moods of a wide range of music.
- Be able to express their opinions freely and respect the views of others.
- Play their own brass instrument in Year 4 as part of our Whole School Ensemble lessons.
- Have the opportunity to continue their music tuition by joining Area Band in Year 5.
- Be able to take graded exams with personalised coaching to help these be achieved.

Curriculum Statement – Creative Writing

We encourage creative writing by learning techniques to develop and improve our writing. We focus on three types of writing: fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Within each genre, using a range of teaching strategies, we discuss and practice elements of writing. Through high quality texts, used throughout the school, we read and analyse samples of good writing and use these to guide and inspire our own work. Please see our school's extensive English policy for more information about our approach to the learning of English.

Method and Approach

At Cantrell Primary School Drama, Dance, Music and Art and Design are taught in ways appropriate to each subject. Each area of The Arts is taught, wherever possible, in a cross curricular way. See individual policies for further information.

Roles and Responsibilities

There are coordinators for each of the five strands of The Arts: Art and Design, Music, Creative Writing, Drama and Dance, along with the designated senior management lead.

The role of each coordinator is:

- To develop a clear view of the subject according to statutory requirements and its contribution to the whole school curriculum.
- To provide advice and documentation to support colleagues in teaching the subject and its constituent elements.
- To play a major part in organising policies, schemes of work and resources.
- To monitor by using the rolling programme.
- To evaluate standards of pupil's achievement.

- To identify trends and patterns in performance of pupils.
- To contribute to the overall evaluation of work and to make suggestions for improvement.

Parental Involvement

Parent helpers and other volunteers may sometimes be used to support children in arts activities. They are carefully briefed by the teacher as to the learning objectives. Parental volunteers will work alongside staff in the classroom and all volunteer work will be in line with the school's safeguarding policy.

SEND Needs

Arts activities can be differentiated to become accessible to all children. All children are taught with careful consideration of their needs. Extra support is given when necessary and adjustments will be provided to ensure that all learners can take part in all activities.

Gifted and Talented

Children who are gifted and talented in The Arts usually display exceptional interest. They work longer than others at set tasks and show attention to detail. They may draw fluently and record accurately, using appropriate perspective. They may have excellent expression and be more confident in their vision and engagement. They may show originality and flair. They may develop and interpret visual or physical ideas for a longer time. Children who particularly enjoy an artform are invited to join our Arts Ambassador group who meet weekly for an hour after school.

Equal Opportunities

The Arts subjects will be taught in line with the school's Equal Opportunities policy, ensuring that all the children will have opportunities to undertake all activities appropriate to their level of ability and with respect to their background and beliefs. The Arts should be used to support children's learning of our shared values such as celebrating diversity and other cultures.

Health and Safety

All leaders of arts activities should ensure there is sufficient space to accommodate the children's needs. Any resources used within arts activities need to be done so in a safe manner and be fully supervised where appropriate.

Signed by Headteacher: *Mrs Deborah Weaver* Date: *12/02/21*

Signed by Chair of Governors: *Mrs Sue Anthony* Date: *12/02/21*

Revised February 2021

To be reviewed February 2023