

## **Arts Award key stage 3**

### **Intent**

The Arts Award at Key Stage 3 aims to engage pupils in a wide range of artistic disciplines, fostering their creative skills and self-expression irrespective of their individual starting points. At our school, we recognise the unique challenges faced by students who may be disaffected from mainstream education. Our intent is to provide a nurturing and inclusive environment where each pupil can explore their creativity, develop confidence, and gain valuable life skills through the arts.

Key objectives include:

- **Personal Development:** To encourage students to take risks within a safe environment, promoting resilience, self-confidence, and a growth mindset while embracing their individual artistic preferences.
- **Skill Acquisition:** To enhance artistic skills across diverse mediums—tailored specifically to pupils' likes, whether in visual arts, music, drama, or digital media—enabling pupils to articulate their ideas and emotions effectively.
- **Cultural Awareness:** To expose students to a variety of cultural experiences, including those that align with their interests and backgrounds, fostering an appreciation for diverse artistic expressions and historical contexts within the arts.

### **Implementation**

The implementation of the Arts Award is structured through a series of carefully designed modules aimed at providing pupils with both theoretical understanding and practical experience, with a strong emphasis on individual likes.

### **Implementation**

- **Curriculum Design:** We offer a progressive curriculum that aligns with the Arts Award framework, tailored to meet the varied needs and interests of our pupils. This includes sessions that allow students to explore their own artistic preferences, as well as structured projects that incorporate collaboration and peer feedback.
- **Creative Workshops:** Regular workshops led by both staff and visiting artists engage pupils in hands-on artistic practice, focusing on individual likes. These workshops are designed to be interactive, allowing students to experiment with materials, techniques, and styles that reflect their personal interests while receiving constructive feedback.
- **Mentoring Course:** Each pupil is paired with a teacher to guide their progression through the Arts Award, taking into account their personal interests and goals. The mentorship offers tailored support and encouragement, helping students articulate their artistic journey in alignment with what they enjoy.
- **Portfolio Development:** Pupils are encouraged to maintain a reflective portfolio that documents their creative processes, artistic choices, and achievements. This encourages self-assessment and critical thinking, building both confidence and ownership in their learning while honouring their individual likes.
- **Showcase Opportunities:** Regular opportunities for pupils to showcase their work through exhibitions, performances, and community events are integrated into the course, providing platforms to highlight individual artistic preferences. These events not only celebrate pupil accomplishments but also foster a sense of pride and belonging.

## **Impact**

The impact of the Arts Award course is demonstrated through multiple measurable and qualitative outcomes, with clear references to individual likes:

**Skill Development:** Assessments indicate that pupils have made substantial progress in their artistic skills, creativity, and critical thinking tailored to their individual likes. Feedback from students highlights improved technical abilities in areas they are passionate about.

**Social and Emotional Growth:** Anecdotal evidence and pupil feedback reflect an increase in self-esteem and resilience, particularly among those who can pursue their specific artistic interests. Students report feeling more confident in their abilities and their capacity to communicate their emotions and ideas effectively.

**Cultural Competence:** Exposing pupils to a variety of cultural perspectives—especially those that resonate with their interests—has enhanced their understanding and appreciation of the arts, with many expressing a newfound interest in exploring further education or careers in creative fields that align with their passions.

**Community Engagement:** Participation in local arts initiatives that reflect their personal likes has strengthened community ties, with pupils actively seeking to contribute and collaborate. This has fostered a sense of responsibility and belonging, vital for their overall well-being.

In summary, the Arts Award course in our school is not only about developing artistic skills; it is a holistic approach that nurtures the emotional and social well-being of vulnerable students, equipping them with essential life skills and preparing them for future success in areas they are passionate about. This commitment to excellence in the arts aligns with Ofsted's outstanding criteria, ensuring that we provide every pupil with an enriching, supportive, and transformative educational experience.