

Curriculum Intent: Understanding the World (KS2–KS4)

At **Woodlands School**, the Expressive Arts curriculum is a vital part of our holistic approach to education, designed to inspire creativity, build emotional resilience, and foster a sense of identity and belonging. Rooted in the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage's 'Expressive Arts and Design' area, our curriculum provides a nurturing space where learners aged 9–16 can explore, imagine, and express themselves through a wide range of artistic disciplines.

We believe that expressive arts are essential for personal growth, communication, and emotional well-being. Our curriculum is carefully structured to meet the diverse needs of our SEMH learners, offering opportunities for self-expression, collaboration, problem solving and celebration of individual talents across art, design, food and vocational studies.

Our intent is to:

- **Encourage imagination and creativity** by providing rich, multi-sensory experiences that allow learners to explore and combine different media and forms.
- **Support emotional and social development** by using the arts as a therapeutic outlet for self-expression, reflection, and connection with others.
- **Develop skills and confidence** in a range of disciplines, enabling learners to communicate ideas and feelings in meaningful ways.
- **Promote cultural understanding and appreciation** through exposure to traditions, practitioners, and perspectives.
- **Foster independence and resilience** by encouraging learners to take creative risks, solve problems, and reflect on their own progress.
- **Celebrate individuality and achievement** by recognising each pupil's unique creative journey and providing inclusive pathways to success, including exhibition and accreditation opportunities.

Through the Expressive Arts, we aim to empower our learners to find their voice, build positive self-esteem, and develop the creative thinking and emotional literacy needed to thrive both in school and beyond.

Specific Learning Outcomes

Art and Design

KS2 Learning Outcomes

- Explore and experiment with a variety of materials, tools, and techniques to express ideas and emotions.
- Develop observational skills through drawing from life and imagination.
- Learn about the work of a range of artists and use them as inspiration for their own creations.
- Begin to evaluate their own and others' work using simple artistic vocabulary.
- Build confidence in presenting and talking about their artwork.

KS3 Learning Outcomes

- Refine techniques in drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed media with increasing control and intention.
- Use the formal elements of art (line, tone, texture, colour, shape, form, space) to communicate meaning.
- Investigate and respond to the work of diverse artists, movements, and cultures.
- Develop personal projects that reflect individual interests, experiences, or emotions.
- Evaluate and reflect on their creative process and outcomes using appropriate terminology

Food and Nutrition

KS2 Learning Outcomes

- Understand basic principles of nutrition and the importance of a balanced diet.
- Follow simple recipes and use basic kitchen equipment safely and hygienically.
- Develop independence and confidence in preparing simple meals and snacks.
- Recognise where food comes from and the journey from farm to fork.
- Work collaboratively and safely in a kitchen environment.

KS3 Learning Outcomes

- Apply knowledge of nutrition to plan and prepare balanced meals.
- Demonstrate increasing independence and skill in using a range of cooking techniques.
- Understand food safety, hygiene, and storage practices in greater depth.
- Explore cultural and seasonal influences on food choices and preparation.
- Evaluate dishes based on taste, presentation, and nutritional value.

Intended Impact of the Expressive Arts Curriculum

Woodlands School (KS2–KS3, SEMH Setting)

The Expressive Arts curriculum at Woodlands School is designed to have a transformative impact on our learners' personal, social, and academic development. Through engaging, hands-on, and emotionally supportive learning experiences in **Art and Design**, **Food and Nutrition**, and **Design and Technology**, learners develop essential life skills, creative confidence, and a sense of achievement that extends beyond the classroom.

Our intended impact is that learners will:

- **Develop emotional literacy and self-expression**, using creative outlets to explore and communicate their thoughts, feelings, and experiences in a safe and constructive way.
- **Build resilience, confidence, and independence**, learning to take creative risks, solve problems, and reflect on their progress with pride and ownership.
- **Acquire practical and transferable skills** that support future learning, independent living, and employability, including teamwork, planning, organisation, and critical thinking.
- **Experience success and recognition**, regardless of academic ability, through personalised learning pathways, inclusive assessment, and opportunities to showcase their work.
- **Gain cultural awareness and appreciation**, developing respect for diverse perspectives, traditions, and artistic practices.
- **Feel empowered and valued**, with their unique talents and voices celebrated as part of a supportive and inclusive school community.

Ultimately, the Expressive Arts curriculum at Woodlands School aims to enrich learners' lives, enhance their well-being, and equip them with the creative and emotional tools they need to thrive both in school and in the wider world.