

## Curriculum Intent Statement

### Art / Photography

**“Creative ability is best enhanced in the process of being creative”**

We believe the art curriculum has a special role in school, it should allow every young person to communicate in their own personal way. During adolescence however, children typically have very little confidence in their artistic ability, therefore it is our aim to develop in all our students the skills necessary to find their own creative and cultural voice, encouraging them to believe in their creative potential, engaging their sense of possibility and giving them confidence to try.

Throughout the history of man, drawing has been used to communicate ideas with immediate and lasting power. From the earliest cave drawings, to Egyptian hieroglyphics, to the sophisticated visions of contemporary creatives, drawing helps us in countless ways to visually and intellectually make sense of the world we live in.

At the heart of all aspects of our curriculum, we therefore feel it imperative to encourage and develop the process of drawing as not only an artistic technique but also as a tool of communication and a mode of understanding our daily lives. Whether the end goal to a student’s artistic endeavours be a painting, a sculpture, a film or photographic work, we believe a firm grasp of drawing should be at the core of their exploration to ensure the greatest success and confidence in their visual communication.

The ambition of our curriculum is to build in and around this central concept of drawing the key skills we feel are essential to developing the creative ‘whole’ and enriching depth of personal artistic expression.

Students will be encouraged to refine their work through experimentation with a broad range of materials, technologies and artistic techniques, taking risks and sustaining practical application of their discoveries to realise personal intentions. As they progressively strengthen their expertise with materials, we also encourage critical reflection through discussion and annotation communicating their ideas and fashioning their own artistic strategies and ‘voice’.

At all stages ideas for creative exploration will be challenged through active engagement with the work and approaches of artists and practitioners from historical, contemporary and culturally diverse backgrounds. This requires students to not only appreciate alternative attitudes and aesthetic values, but to also make artistic links that enhance the development of their own practise. We feel it is essential that students observe first- hand the work of artists through galleries, museums, visiting artists and events making connections between work made in art lessons and the tangible impact of art experienced.

Furthermore students are taught to feel that they ‘can too’, that their work can also travel beyond the classroom and impact on and communicate significantly with others in the community, through exhibitions, displays and being encouraged to be involved in creative opportunities made available to them.

With our curriculum we attempt to identify each student’s own creative strengths, stimulate their curiosity, question preconceptions and foster their capacity to become self-motivated, self-directing creative individuals. We aim for them to take these attributes into a dynamically changing world with a generous, open mind to other’s influence and the confidence in their own ability to influence others.