



Stanley St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

Arts Policy

As a church school we believe that every person, every child, and every adult is unique and special with God given gifts and talents which is our job to nurture and cherish.

The Arts

At Stanley St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, we believe that the arts are the foundation of the curriculum, and we define the arts as music, dance, drama, art, film, photography, IT and literature. We believe that the arts offer opportunities for the children to explore, express and communicate their feelings whilst gaining experiences of the wider world. Through experiencing the arts, children develop their creativity, social and emotional well-being, self-esteem and confidence.

'The arts are like your backbone. You may be able to survive without your backbone but what quality of life would you have?'

Sir Simon Rattle

Curriculum

We have high ambition and expectation for the achievement of all our children. We utilise their knowledge and understanding of the local environment, embracing the farming community in which the village is situated, as a way into teaching and learning. We use real life understanding, especially that relating to environmental issues, as a starting point to expand children's horizons and develop an understanding of the world. Through themes and topics pupils engage in experiential learning so that everyone can access the curriculum and learn new skills and knowledge to well equip them for the journey of life.

We continuously adapt and review the curriculum to meet the needs and interests of all learners. Children are involved in planning all aspects of their learning. Our holistic approach continuously strives to provide each learner with a love, thirst and drive to achieve their potential and personal best so they can flourish in the global world.

Intent

Through discussion, questioning and careful listening, we discover the child's existing knowledge and skills and look to use these as a platform to develop and promote learning. We intend to

enhance, extend and enrich knowledge and understanding through a variety of high-quality teaching experiences, guided by our children and their voice in our collaborative approach. If barriers or obstacles occur, we support, nurture and facilitate their needs with practical and visual ways to overcome them, whilst fostering and developing resilience and a positive mind-set in order to grow their confidence.

Implementation

The creative curriculum promotes challenge and is active and engaging, preparing children for life beyond their own communities. Children are encouraged to input into the curriculum planning to develop confidence, independent learning and lifelong skills.

We want our children to believe in themselves and have a love for learning. We want them to be proud of their achievements in all its forms. Therefore, our school values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident and happy citizens.

Impact

Please see performance data on website, in addition to the outcomes:

- Our children are healthy and happy individuals who are confident to have a go and learn from mistakes.
- Children are able to lead a range of activities and events across school through the strong relationships that they have with staff.
- The Christian distinctiveness and ethos are the driving force through the school values so every child matters and all God's children are valued.
- Staff work hard to ensure that all children flourish as God's children and make their mark on the life of school.
- Children have a good understanding of their local area, the UK and the world, with particular interest in our link school Dum Dum which is situated in the heart of Kolkata in India. Children through the close link and regular visits made by staff have an insight into the importance of education across the world. Children exchange information about each other and ask well thought out questions to further their knowledge. This international link has also engaged our parents who ask questions, support our work by providing learning resources and celebrating the relationship.
- Staff ensure that all children have a voice and help to prepare each child through one to one time, detailed discussions and quality parents consultations, over the year.
- We carry out litter picks and traffic surveys all which impact upon our curriculum outcomes and helps to prepare our children for the next stage of their education.

Mission Statement

We are committed to ensuring that all of our children have equal access to all Arts sessions and experiences. The Arts at Stanley St Andrew's Church of England Primary School reflect our diverse culture and we believe in participating in Arts events within our local community, for example, creating well dressing, decorating the church and supporting the annual village fair run by the Parish Council Service. Arts learning, both indoors and outdoors, is planned for through every subject area (see our 'Curriculum Intent Overviews'). We believe that our learning environment supports the Arts and achievements in the Arts at school and at home are recognized and celebrated.

Aims and Objectives

We aim to provide all children at Stanley St Andrew's Church of England Primary School with:

- A focus on the Arts through our School Improvement Plan
- An opportunity to extend, develop & embed our Arts provision towards Artsmark accreditation.
- The opportunity to participate in and experience a broad and balanced range of Arts experiences that give children the ability to create, appreciate and make critical judgements about art works.
- The opportunity to develop a progressive range of skills and to engage with a variety of art forms to explore values, attitudes, feelings and meanings.
- Experiences that develop confidence & self-esteem
- Opportunities to see/appreciate the Arts in different settings and to work with a range of experts and professionals.
- Opportunities to develop the correct vocabulary so that children can talk and think about the Arts and use this to evaluate their own and others work.
- A rich Arts environment where class role play is used to develop language and communication skills.
- Opportunities to work both collaboratively and independently on projects and to present their work to others.

Partnerships

We believe the value of partnerships with Arts organisations demonstrate excellence and raise awareness of opportunities and expectations in the Arts. The links benefit:

- Curriculum development
- Church links
- Community links
- Staff development
- Children's creative achievements
- The profile of the Arts

Through effective communication and liaison, we ensure effective partnerships covering a range of Art forms including those of other cultures, venues and activities. Our partnerships offer a range of learning opportunities and we are always looking for new ones.

Children are able to experience these through:

- Visiting artists and musicians
- Visits to museums and places of worship
- Wider Opportunities through Music events such as young voices, music partnership
- Participating within Skylark Cluster events
- Visiting the secondary schools to see/hear musicians and drama performances
- Talented staff, parents and governors within the school
- Plays, Theatre company visits & Workshops

- Performing in annual school shows – such as Stanley’s Got Talent, end of year performances and nativity including dancing, singing, drama

Cross Curricular Links

Cross-curricular links are made through careful whole school planning and liaison between Subject Leaders and Co-ordinators. Examples of this include the use of IT in music; drama in English and collective worship; art in most subjects; songs and music in learning alphabet, numbers etc; drama/role play in all cross- curricular themes.

For PSHE, involvement in the Arts helps children to make choices, identify what they are good at and what they need to do to improve. Our multi-cultural work helps children to recognise and celebrate difference and diversity. Our strong links with school in Kolkata gives our children a better understanding how people live/ work and are educated in different ways and how this might impact upon the arts. Children learn the techniques of discussion when appreciating a piece of artwork or music.

Facilities and Resources

Our aim is that children have access to high quality resources, and that children and adults use these resources responsibly.

- Children have continual access to Arts resources – Role Play, Creative, Art, Design, IT, Music – instruments and Dens.
- Use of cameras and photography are integrated into the curriculum.
- Specific weekly lessons for Music and P.E. incorporating Dance.
- Child and adult initiated Arts activities indoors & outdoors.
- Outdoor Art areas.
- ECO area to explore arts through the environment.

Evaluation and Assessment

- Monitoring and evaluating is part of a whole school programme by Leaders, Co-ordinators, and Governors
- Assessment is carried out against EYFS and National Curriculum criteria, and our own short, medium, long term objectives in our Curriculum Intent Overviews
- Children are encouraged to evaluate their own work and the work of others. They learn how to modify their work and are given lots of opportunities to do so.

Equal Opportunities

All teaching and non-teaching staff at our school are responsible for ensuring that all pupils irrespective of gender, differing faiths, ability, ethnicity and social circumstances, have access to the whole curriculum and opportunities to make the greatest progress possible in all areas of the curriculum whilst in our school. Care is particularly taken to ensure that we promote positive gender stereotypes,

Through arts teaching all children are:

- Motivated
- Offered a range of resources to meet their needs
- Given diverse and creative teaching styles
- Supported if 'Gifted & Talented'

Time in the Curriculum

At Stanley St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, we provide curriculum time for teaching in art, design & technology, dance, IT, music and drama to give all pupils a broad programme. We use the arts to develop a creative approach to learning in other curriculum areas and computers are used to enhance the delivery of the arts and whole curriculum.

The Arts Leaders:

Mrs Stanley-Wainwright (Headteacher)
Sarah Hardy-Fryer (Art Co-ordinator)

Policy Review

This policy was reviewed in July 2023 by the Arts Leaders.

This policy will next be reviewed in July 2026 in accordance with our policy review schedule.

We will review this policy earlier than the scheduled review date should there be any change in guidance or legislation related to this policy or if we feel that an earlier review is necessary.