

# **Courthouse Green Primary School**



## **Policy for The Arts 2013**

'Doing our best to be our best'

## Policy for 'The Arts'

### What are 'The Arts' and why are they important?

*'The Arts are a source of inspiration, enjoyment and fulfilment. They provide contexts in which children learn to express their thoughts and emotions, use their imaginations, experiment and develop creativity. The Arts make a key contribution to children's personal, social and emotional development and to their growth as confident individuals. It enables them to participate in and respond to the creative and cultural life of their communities.'*

*DfE, 2000*

'The Arts' stimulate creativity and imagination; they enable pupils to become successful learners, who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve well. Through participating in a range of art forms, including art and design, music, dance, drama and creative writing, children develop ways of understanding, appreciating and responding to their personal environment and the world, gaining insights into contemporary life, different viewpoints, identities, traditions and cultures.

### Mission statement – the Courthouse Green Guarantee

At Courthouse Green we are committed to provide an engaging, broad, rich and inclusive Arts curriculum giving pupils the opportunity to appreciate and enjoy the arts, whatever their background, needs and ability. Our curriculum is creative, cross-curricular, coherent and meaningful, allowing pupils to make connections across their learning, thus developing interest and excitement. Through celebrating and exploring art and design, music, dance and drama, from different times and cultures, pupils at Courthouse Green will learn to appreciate artistic heritage, cultural diversity and the roles and intentions of different artists.

Our vision at Courthouse Green is to provide every child with a range of high-quality experiences within 'The Arts'. As part of our Arts guarantee we aim to offer every child a range of musical, art, dance and drama experiences which represent different cultures and are delivered by specialist teachers. During their time as a pupil at Courthouse Green, all children will learn to play a selection of different instruments, using these skills to take part in regular performances. In addition, all children will be given the opportunity to watch dance and musical performances, from a variety of different genres and cultures, enabling children to develop an appreciation of different styles and representations. Whilst at Courthouse Green children will take part in dance performances, both within school and the wider community. They will visit both an art gallery and a theatre to explore 'The Arts' in the wider world and its importance. We believe it is important, for all children to have their work appreciated and therefore the arts work completed will be displayed and shared with those within the school community and for the wider community in the form of Arts evenings, performances and art galleries.

### Our aims and objectives

At Courthouse Green we show a strong commitment to the arts to ensure that pupils develop creativity and imagination. Our school aims to:

- Provide a broad, balanced and exciting arts curriculum which is of high-quality and enables creativity, imagination and the development of skills.
- Raise the standard of arts education, therefore raising standards in the arts.
- Provide children with the opportunity to work with specialists and professionals in the arts.
- Enhance children's awareness and appreciation of different cultures and traditions through the arts.
- Support every child in discovering and pursuing their interests and talents.
- Provide high-quality arts experiences and resources for all children.

- Continue to develop the use of ICT in the arts.
- Celebrate the artistic achievements of every child, developing confidence and self-esteem.
- Develop effective links with parents and the wider community through the arts.
- Provide all staff with continuing professional development in the arts.
- Provide all children with arts experiences outside school e.g. theatre and gallery visits

In order to fulfil these aims we will follow the Edison Connected Curriculum, planning additional opportunities and cross-curricular links, with progressive skills and subject-specific vocabulary. The curriculum will be delivered by specialists within the arts, particularly for music and dance, and by staff who are regularly provided with advice, guidance and expert partners to develop their skills. ICT will be used in lessons frequently, to share work and to aid performances. Throughout the school high-quality art work will be displayed representing different cultures and significant events, such as Black History Month. In addition, music played in assemblies and performances will incorporate musical styles and instruments from different cultures.

### **Curriculum Provision**

The culture within our school and the curriculum reflect the importance that we place on the arts. In addition to the entitlements listed in our arts guarantee, all children will experience the following.

- Art lessons which are planned for in each of the half termly themes and meet the requirements of the National Curriculum. In the Foundation Stage, children will experience art activities which relate to the goals in the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Physical Education is allocated for two hours each week, meaning that three units of dance can be taught each year.
- Music lessons are planned for and taught each week from year 1 - 6, these relate to the half termly themes, where possible and are taught by specialist music teachers. Within these lessons all children learn to play an instrument.
- Drama is a key element of our Literacy and theme lessons and is used to support the understanding of key concepts.
- All children in reception, key stage 1 and 2 take part in an annual performance.
- All children in key stages 1 and 2 experience a variety of styles and genres of music in whole school assemblies.
- Each class holds several assemblies each year sharing their learning, often including songs, dances, art work and drama.
- Where possible, the curriculum will be enriched by visiting musicians, dancers, artists, theatre groups and authors and by out-of-school visits.

### **The Arts and Inclusion**

We teach the arts to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. The arts form a part of our school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education for all our children. Our teachers provide learning opportunities that are matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties. We strive to meet the needs of all pupils with special educational needs, disabilities, special gifts and talents, and of those learning English as an additional language.

We enable all pupils to have access to the full range of activities while studying the arts. Where children participate in activities outside the classroom (a visit to an art gallery or theatre, for example) we carry out a risk assessment beforehand, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

## **The Arts and ICT**

Information and Communication Technology enhances our teaching of the arts, wherever appropriate, in all key stages. Children use software to explore shape, colour and pattern in their art, musical styles, instruments and compositions in music and movements and recordings in dance and drama. The children also use the Internet, to find out more about the lives and works of famous artists, designers and musicians and to record their own work and performances.

## **Partnerships**

As part of our on-going provision we believe the value of partnerships with arts organisations provide high-quality learning for children and raises awareness of opportunities and expectations. These links help to benefit the curriculum and staff development, community links and the profile of the arts. We are proud to have links with Coventry Performing Arts Service, Foxford School and Community Arts College and the Coventry Sports Foundation. We also participate in local arts projects and competitions such as the Mornings of Music, young voices, council run art and design and creative writing competitions and concerts with cluster schools.

At Courthouse Green we value the contribution that can be made by partnerships with parents and actively invite parents in to support and participate in their child's learning. Parents are invited to share their child's talents in assemblies, productions and arts events.

## **Facilities and resources**

We are fortunate to have a wide range of resources and facilities to support the teaching of arts across the school. The school halls are used for dance lessons and performances, and can also be used for drama lessons. In addition the studio can be used with smaller groups of children. We also have a music room which stores all instruments and sound equipment and which music lessons are taught in. Specialist equipment for teaching art and design and dance is stored in separate rooms that are not accessible to children.

## **Assessment and monitoring**

We assess the children's work in the arts while observing them working during lessons. In addition each class teacher and music specialist uses the Chris Quigley skills document which has been provided to assess their class after each theme for art, music and dance. When doing this the class teacher highlights any art skills which 80% of their class have achieved and annotates the document with any children with particular strengths or weaknesses. Where specialist teachers, teach the arts this document is completed, in consultation with the class teacher. These documents are then monitored by the relevant subject leader on a termly basis.

Subject leaders keep evidence of a selection of the children's work in a portfolio or in the form of pictures or a video recording. This demonstrates the expected level of achievement in the arts in each year of the school.

## **Extra-curricular provision**

At Courthouse Green we offer a range of arts clubs that can be accessed by pupils. School staff, teachers from local organisations and services and local secondary schools deliver a number of different clubs throughout the year. These include art clubs for both key stages 1 and 2, focusing on all forms of art and the work of a range of artists, Drumestra club which teaches drumming, steel pans and a range of other

instruments, ipad orchestra, focusing on the use of ipads to create and compose music, a recorder club for years 3 and 4 and a choir for both key stages 1 and 2. In addition, lunchtime dance clubs are held for both key stage 1 and 2 and an after-school club teaching street dance is also held weekly. There are also clubs held to teach electric guitar for years 5 and 6, a gifted and talented art club for key stage 1 and for some of the year photography and drama clubs. A letter is sent to parents each term giving details of extra-curricular provision and giving children the opportunity to join these clubs.

Courthouse Green has individual policies for art, music, PE (dance) and English (drama and creative writing). These policies give more information on curriculum, teaching and learning and assessment. They are evaluated and reviewed by the subject co-ordinator.

C. Pennicott – Arts leader.  
January 2013

Approved by Governors 5/6/13