

Reviewed July 2020

Aire Valley

Nursery Schools Federation



Expressive Arts and Design Policy

Rationale

Logic will take you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.” - Albert Einstein

There is no doubt that creativity is the most important human resource of all. Without creativity, there would be no progress, and we would be forever repeating the same patterns.” — Edward de Bono

Children's responses to what they see, hear and experience through their senses are individual and the way they represent their experiences is unique and valuable. Expressive Arts and Design is about taking risks and making connections and it enables children to explore many processes, media and materials and to make new opportunities emerge as a result.

Expressive Arts and Design is not just about special people doing special things. We all have the potential to be creative and creativity is a skill that needs to be developed. We have a responsibility to ensure that children's individual creativity is nurtured. Play and creativity share many of the same characteristics including the existence of choice. Creativity involves children initiating their own learning and making choices and decisions

To provide effectively for the needs of all our children we will use the 'Statutory Framework for The Early Years Foundation Stage' to inform our practice.

The four guiding principles of EYFS, **Unique child**, **Positive relationships**, **Enabling environments** and **Children develop and learn in different ways at different times** will be at the heart of our day to day practice.

We recognise the individuality of all children and the need to nurture their confidence, capabilities and independence, to this end we will ensure that our practice reflects the characteristics of effective teaching and learning, **playing and exploring**, **active learning** and **creating and thinking critically**.

Aims

Our aims set out how we intend to deliver a high quality curriculum

- To provide an environment that will stimulate curiosity and the desire to explore a wide range of media and materials.
- To provide the opportunity for children to be involved in experiences across the arts and design field, where they will be encouraged to express their ideas and feelings.
- To have a particular focus on the aspects of expressive arts and design in our planning and assessment for
 - **Exploring and using media and materials**
 - **Being imaginative**
- To ensure that all adults working with children understand the nature of creativity and that it requires children have freedom of thought and action.
- To ensure that all children are supported in making the best possible progress.

Objectives

Our objectives set out how we implement our aims

- We will ensure that adults working with children value their ideas and what individual children can do, rather than expecting them to reproduce someone else's work or idea.
- We will ensure that adults teach children the skills and techniques of using equipment and materials so that they can use them independently and effectively
- To ensure that children are making the best progress, over time, we will assess and track their progress. The results of which will inform future planning both at an individual level and also at a curriculum level.

- We will provide a vibrant and engaging environment in which, originality, expressiveness and being adventurous are stimulated and valued
- We will ensure we are flexible enough to allow sufficient time for children to become deeply involved, develop ideas and see them through to a successful conclusion
- We will use the indoor and outdoor environment, visitors, trips and outings as sources of creativity and imagination, extending experiences and learning
- We will include resources from a variety of cultures to both reflect our community stimulate new ideas and different ways of thinking

The following support the **implementation** of this policy and ensure we monitor **impact**

- a. *Guidelines on Curriculum Planning*
Birth to 3 years / 3-5 years
- b. *Communication Strategies with Children*
- c. *Expressive Arts and Design Guidelines*
- d. *Assessment Policy and Guidelines*