

Creative Arts

Intent

At Kings Infant School, we aim to nourish a love for the creative arts and design and technology, through a specialist environment and high quality resources. We aim to give the children the opportunity to express their individual interests, thoughts and ideas, to develop new skills and to build on existing skills. We aim to give the children exposure to a variety of diverse artists, and to explore their own sense of self and experiences through designing and creating.

Implementation

We provide a combination of experiences to develop children's creative expression. This includes both specific sessions focused on developing artistic skills and also sessions which provide space for exploration. Through this creative approach we cover two learning areas of the EYFS curriculum: 'Expressive Art and Design' and 'Understanding the World'. Within these sessions we cover a range of skills and knowledge which includes music, dance, textiles, drawing, painting, sculpting, designing, making and creating.

Creative experiences are also planned to provide opportunities for the use of symbolic languages which is an important aspect of learning in King's Infant School. We provide highly organised environments which provide access to a vast range of materials and resources. We use aspects from the Reggio Emilia learning approach in developing symbolic languages with children in order to help them express their thinking and make thinking visible to others. We carefully plan the right use of environments to facilitate different types of learning, sometimes this takes place in the child's classroom and other times this will be delivered in one of our 'ateliers'.

We use 'ateliers' as special places that provide additional space to more deeply explore a concept creatively. We have two distinct ateliers in school 'creative atelier' which has a wide range of art resources, materials and equipment such as a powerful light table; and a green atelier which is used for exploration in the natural world. This area is used for observing, caring for and growing plants. The children use this very light, bright and open space for deeper investigations into natural objects found or grown using technology and equipment such as microscopes, magnifiers as well as art materials for recording observations.

To deliver high quality specialist sessions in Design and Technology, once a week we organise KS1 and Reception children into groups exploring textiles, Food Technology and 3D modeling. In the Pre Nursery and Nursery classes, there is also a termly focus in these areas during class time, in order for children to have experience of and develop independent skills within these subjects.

The atelier is a setting created to celebrate, stimulate, enhance, and develop creativity through connections.

Impact

The children at Kings Infants School develop a love for the creative arts, they feel confident exploring and experimenting with a wide range of materials and in a plethora of manners. They create with confidence and have developed a variety of skills that they can take with them for life. They use these forms of expression to communicate their thoughts, and this is celebrated and nurtured throughout EYFS and KS1.