

Art Curriculum Overview (Grammarsaurus)

At our school, we follow the **Grammarsaurus Art Curriculum**, which promotes creativity, self-expression, and technical skill development through a structured, skills-based approach. Our curriculum is designed to progressively build pupils' confidence and competence in using a range of media and artistic techniques, while nurturing a deep appreciation for art and design.

Progressive Skill Development

From **Year 1 to Year 6**, pupils revisit and build upon core artistic skills each year, including drawing, painting, colour theory, and sculptural techniques. They explore different tools and materials, learn to evaluate their work, and develop their own creative voice. The curriculum is organised into thematic units that ensure both depth and progression:

Monochromatic Unit – *Mastering Tone and Drawing Skills*

This unit focuses on the use of **a single colour or tone** to explore form, shadow, and texture. Pupils:

- Begin by learning pencil control, grip, and pressure in early years.
- Progress to tonal shading, hatching, and cross-hatching to create depth.
- Explore **light, shadow, and contrast** to convey mood and realism.
- Apply these skills to more detailed observational drawings by upper KS2.

Chromatic Unit – *Exploring Colour and Expression*

The chromatic strand introduces and deepens understanding of **colour theory and expression**. Children:

- Learn about **primary and secondary colours**, colour mixing, and the colour wheel.
- Explore emotional impact through warm/cool colour schemes.
- Experiment with abstract and expressive painting techniques.
- Study the work of colour-focused artists, using it as inspiration for their own vibrant compositions.

Sculpture Unit – *Hands-on Creativity with Clay*

In this 3D unit, pupils engage with **clay sculpture**, learning practical techniques and building their understanding of form. Across the years, they:

- Begin by shaping and imprinting clay using coils, slabs, and found textures.
- Move on to joining techniques and adding surface detail.
- Create expressive sculptures with narrative or symbolic elements by Year 6.
- Reflect on how sculptors use clay to convey emotion, culture, or storytelling.

Why It Matters

By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils are not only confident in handling a range of materials, but also able to plan, evaluate, and talk about their work using appropriate vocabulary. The Grammarsaurus Art Curriculum helps children develop **both creative flair and technical ability**, preparing them for future artistic opportunities.