



**St John
and St Nicolas
Schools Federation**

**For the good of all
through curiosity,
creativity and love**

Policy Title:	Art
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Change Record

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1.0	18.05.23	SCC Minutes 04.07.23	New policy prepared by SLT	May 2025
1.1	29.04.25	SCC Minutes 29.04.25	Reviewed and updated; spirituality added	May 2027
1.2				

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St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation
Art Policy

Federation Vision

At St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation, our vision is 'For the good of all – through curiosity, creativity and love.' This vision inspires everything that the federation does. It applies equally to all the federation's policies with the intention that our policies impact as fairly and positively as possible to meet the needs of all members of our schools' community.

Curriculum Statement

Our federation is a journey for all of our children from the Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 6 and beyond. Our curriculum aim is for children's time with us to prepare them for life after our schools. Each child in our schools is recognised as an individual with their own ambitions, needs, skills and aspirations and it will be our schools' role to support and challenge each individual to achieve these.

Our curriculum will allow all children to develop the key skills of reading, writing and maths through a broad and balanced curriculum providing a wide range of experiences. Throughout our schools, we will promote equality and diversity and will provide every opportunity for children to develop resilience, confidence and enthusiasm, so becoming imaginative, creative and independent learners able to make informed decisions. Our rich curriculum, complemented by our nurturing approach will allow all our children to develop emotionally and spiritually.

We value all aspects of the school curriculum and will ensure our curriculum encompasses spiritual, moral, social, cultural, emotional and physical education.

How Art fits into our Federation Curriculum

At St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation, we provide a rich and exciting visual arts curriculum that inspires children and allows them to become confident, creative decision makers. In every year group, we teach three, 6-week art units per year for one hour per week. Each art unit allows children to experience the work of a wide variety of artists, designers and craftspeople so that they can learn from the way that they see the world. They will explore a range of skills and media and experiment and develop ideas in sketchbooks that will follow the child to their next year group. At the end of each unit, children are given the freedom and choice to create a final outcome that is unique to them using their new skills and knowledge. Children are given opportunities to share, reflect and discuss their work and the work of others.

Curriculum Organisation and Content for Art

Art units at St John's are linked to our progression documents to ensure coverage and progression of drawing, painting and sculpture. In addition to this, children will have the opportunity to experience collage and printing.

Art units at St Nicolas are linked to our progression documents to ensure coverage and progression of drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, textiles and printing.

[St John's Art Skills Progression link](#)

[St Nicolas Year 3/4 Art Skills Progression link](#)

[St Nicolas Year 5/6 Art Skills Progression link](#)

Spirituality in Art

Spirituality can be explored in every subject. In art, children can appreciate the wonder of the world around them, developing their imagination and creativity and using their curiosity to explore the meaning of life through art.

Inclusion, Support and Challenge

Our sketchbooks allow children to experiment, explore and practise with skills and media in a safe space and to develop their own ideas. This allows the nervous artist to develop confidence and the more experienced artist to try new skills, before applying them to their final outcome.

Assessment

Assessment in art is a useful tool to enable creativity. At St John's and St Nicolas, we aim to ensure that all children work towards their creative potential. When assessing children's growth in art, we look at their progression in skills, their confidence to experiment and develop their own ideas and their sense of their own identity as an artist.

We achieve this through discussions to discover intention and understanding, looking at their sketchbook journey and their final outcomes.

Monitoring

The art coordinators from St John's and St Nicolas will monitor the teaching and learning of art across the federation by:

- Liaising to ensure progression from Reception through to year 6.
- Looking at medium- and short-term plans.
- Looking at sketchbooks from all year groups
- Talking to children from each year group to discuss their enjoyment and successes in art
- Observing lessons from a range of year groups.
- Looking at art displays in classrooms and communal areas across the schools.

Reviewed 2025 – Review again in 2027