



Visual Arts Plean Scoile



St. Louise de Marillac Primary School
Drumfinn Road
Ballyfermot
Dublin 10



St. Louise de Marillac Primary School

Whole School Plan for Visual Arts

Introductory Statement and Rationale

Introductory Statement

This visual arts plan has been drawn up by staff and parents of St. Louise's Primary School. This plan is for the information of staff, parents, the Board of Management, Department of Education and other interested parties in the school community.

Rationale

- To record our good practice in the visual arts
- This plan conforms to the principles of the curriculum statements
- To provide a guideline for teachers in their provision of all strands of the visual arts.

Vision and Aims

Vision:

We strive to enhance each child's self-esteem through nurturing their creativity and imagination by exposing them to all aspects of the visual arts curriculum.

Aims:

We endorse the aims of the Primary School Curriculum for visual arts:

- to enable the child to explore, clarify and express ideas, feelings and experiences through a range of arts activities
- to provide for aesthetic experiences and to develop aesthetic awareness in the visual arts, in music, in drama, in dance and in literature
- to develop the child's awareness of, sensitivity to and enjoyment of visual, aural, tactile and spatial qualities in the environment
- to enable the child to develop natural abilities and potential, to acquire techniques, and to practise the skills necessary for creative expression and for joyful participation in different art forms
- to enable the child to see and to solve problems creatively through imaginative thinking and so encourage individuality and enterprise
- to value the child's confidence and self-esteem through valuing self-expression
- to foster a sense of excellence in and appreciation of the arts in local, regional, national and global contexts, both past and present
- to foster a critical appreciation of the arts for personal fulfilment and enjoyment.

Content of Plan

Curriculum

Strands and Strand Units:

Drawing	Making drawings Looking and Responding
Paint and Colour	Painting Looking and Responding
Print	Making prints Looking and Responding
Clay	Developing form in clay Looking and Responding
Construction	Making Constructions Looking and Responding
Fabric and Fibre	Creating in fabric and fibre Looking and Responding

It is important that each strand be taught during the school year and that they are rooted in the curriculum objectives for each class level. Teachers are not restricted as to when they do each strand with their class; quite often the strands overlap and certainly drawing is done throughout the year.

Children with Different Needs:

It is school policy that all children will participate in visual arts activities. Particular support may be given to children with additional needs. Resource teachers may also do art activities with certain children where (s)he feels it will develop other skills and talents of the child. Parents will be made aware of their child's artistic talents at the P/T meetings / on the end of year school report card, so they can further develop these skills at home, in art classes, competitions, etc.

Linkage and Integration:

Activities that integrate the visual arts with other subjects are planned to help extend children's understanding of both art and the other subjects. The visual arts can be integrated with all subjects in the curriculum. Linkage is also important so that children can continue using skills learnt throughout the year. A lot of the strands can be taught during integrated play. Art forms an important component of Maths Week and Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Assessment and Record Keeping:

We will use the following assessment tools:

- teacher observation
- teacher-designed tasks
- report cards

Please refer to the school's Assessment Policy for further detail.

Equality of Participation and Access:

In line with our inclusive school policy, all children, regardless of cultural or ethnic background or socio-economic background, shall have access to the visual arts. Teachers will take into consideration children of different faiths and none when planning art activities for religious events, e.g. Christmas, Easter.

Organisation***Timetables:***

Infant classes should have access to Arts Education (Music, Visual Arts and Drama) for 2hrs and 30mins per week. All other classes are allotted an hour per week for Visual Arts. At certain times of the year, teachers may decide to “block time” to work on bigger projects. Teachers are free to schedule art lessons on any day, and may decide to split the hour throughout the week. This hour can be used within any curricular area and linked in with other curricular areas e.g. projects.

Displays:

Classroom: Each teacher displays children’s art in their own rooms. This is updated regularly.

Outside classrooms: Most rooms have their own noticeboards outside the classrooms.

Main corridors and hall: Teachers are encouraged to display artwork in the corridors and in the school hall.

Community: Artwork from 2nd class is displayed in the church for the First Holy Communion. Artwork is also displayed for the Confirmation.

Competitions: Children’s artwork is regularly entered into competitions and may be on display in magazines / in the local Civic Centre/ Ballyfermot Library or posted on the school’s Instagram account.

Resources and ICT:

Teachers regularly use ICT as part of art lessons. There is a large variety of websites available to help plan and teach the different strands.

There is a large supply of art materials in the school. Each year teachers add to the collection in their classroom. There is a collection of art books available in the staff library. There is also a collection of theme books, which was provided by a visiting art cuiditheoir. The staff has access to Shoparty for art supplies.

Health and Safety:

Care and attention will be given to the following:

- Storage of paints, glues and other liquid materials
- Correct usage and holding of scissors
- Proper ventilation
- Appropriate settings for the art lessons
- Protective clothing
- Children washing hands in small groups
- Wet floors in toilet area when washing hands

Please see our Health & Safety Policy for further detail.

Individual Teachers' Planning and Reporting:

- Planning in class groups
- Planning in staff meetings
- Individual planning
- Recording in cuntas míosúil

Staff Development:

If and when needed, time will be allocated at staff meetings to discuss relevant issues pertaining to the planning of visual arts. Some teachers will complete professional development summer courses based on the visual arts.

Parental Involvement:

Parents are encouraged to view children's art on display in the school. Children regularly take home samples of their artwork. Parents are invited to come in and help with art activities, particularly in Early Start and infant classes, often around the theme of festivals, e.g. Christmas decorations, Easter, Halloween etc. Pupils from the older classes participate in art activities with pupils in the younger classes.

Community Links:

The local community, students from the local art college, and any artists in the area will be considered as valuable resources for the school. The children in second/sixth classes will display some artwork in the church. Children will be encouraged to enter art competitions, which may result in their work being published in local/national publications.

Local artists have in the past been invited to work on both inside and outside murals with the children. We will continue to avail of these opportunities as they arise.

The school regularly avails of opportunities offered by NCAD. We participate in their school access programme. This consists of students working with classes on a particular theme and visits to the exhibitions in NCAD. Classes are also encouraged to visit art galleries.

Success Criteria

- The strands being taught
- Children using a range of artistic skills and methods
- Methods of assessment working well
- Positive DES Inspector feedback
- Positive Parents'/Teachers'/Pupils' feedback

Implementation

Roles and Responsibilities:

The post-holder for the visual arts is responsible for the development of the visual arts curriculum. (S)he will liaise with others within the school community if and when the needs arise. (S)he will be responsible for ordering art supplies for each class.

Review

Roles and Responsibilities:

Each teacher and the staff as a whole will evaluate the progress of this plan in accordance with the success criteria. If needed, time will be allocated at a staff meeting to discuss this.

Timeframe:

The Visual Arts Plan was reviewed by staff in March 2025. In accordance with the school's systematic cycle of review of plans and policies the Visual Arts Plan will be reviewed in the school year 2027/28. An earlier review will be instigated if deemed necessary by the school community. All stakeholders will be responsible for informing the art post-holder of any amendments they think should be made.

Ratification and Communication

This school plan for the visual arts has been ratified by the Board of Management of St. Louise de Marillac Primary School on 8th April 2025.

Signed:



(Chairperson, Board of Management)

Date:

8.4.2025