



Highworth Warneford School

Department Curriculum Intent Statement



Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact Statement

Highworth Warneford School: Visual Arts Department

Introduction – Overall Department Intent

The Art Department at HWS, aims to inspire creativity, critical thinking, and self-expression in all students. We provide a supportive and inclusive environment where learners explore a wide range of materials, techniques, and artistic disciplines. Our curriculum encourages curiosity, visual literacy, and an understanding of cultural and historical contexts in art. Through practical work and reflective learning, students develop both technical skills and personal confidence. We celebrate diversity in artistic voices and challenge students to communicate ideas, emotions, and social themes visually. The Art Department nurtures a lifelong appreciation for the visual arts, preparing students to engage meaningfully with the world around them, whether pursuing careers in creative industries or enriching their personal lives through artistic expression.

Department implementation with the HWS 5 Keys to Curriculum Success

<p>Knowledge, skills and mastery</p>	<p>Our Art Curriculum is designed to developing students’ knowledge, skills, and mastery in the visual arts through a rich, structured, and inclusive curriculum. We believe that every student can succeed in art by building a strong foundation in key concepts such as visual language, formal elements, and the historical and cultural contexts of art. Our teaching encourages students to make connections between their own creative work and that of artists, designers, and movements from diverse backgrounds and time periods.</p> <p>We place a strong emphasis on developing technical skills across a range of media, including drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, photography, and digital art. Students learn how to experiment, refine techniques, and select appropriate processes to realise their ideas. Through structured progression from Year 7 to Year 11, learners build confidence, resilience, and independence in their practical work.</p> <p>Mastery in art is achieved through a combination of skill development, critical thinking, and personal expression. Our approach nurtures both creativity and precision, encouraging students to revisit and improve their work, reflect critically on outcomes, and take creative risks. Regular formative assessment and supportive feedback help students understand how to improve and take ownership of their learning journey.</p> <p>In our department, success is not solely defined by talent, but by effort, progress, and engagement. We aim to provide all students with the tools to express themselves meaningfully, respond thoughtfully to the visual world, and communicate ideas with clarity and impact. Whether students choose to pursue art further or not, the skills they develop—such as problem-solving, visual analysis, and perseverance—prepare them for success in many aspects of life and learning.</p>
<p>Literacy and numeracy</p>	<p>The Art Department at HWS is committed to embedding literacy and numeracy across all areas of the curriculum, recognising their importance in supporting students’ wider academic development and future success. In art, literacy plays a crucial role in enabling students to communicate ideas, interpret meaning, and articulate personal and critical responses. Students are encouraged to use subject-specific vocabulary accurately when discussing their own work and that of others. We promote extended writing through artist analysis, project evaluations, and annotations, helping students to develop confidence in expressing their creative intentions and reflecting critically on outcomes.</p> <p>Speaking and listening are also central to our practice. Students regularly take part in group critiques, presentations, and class discussions, where they learn to justify their decisions, offer constructive feedback, and engage thoughtfully with diverse opinions and perspectives.</p>



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	<p>Numeracy is integrated naturally into many aspects of practical art-making. Students apply mathematical knowledge when measuring and scaling work, understanding proportion and perspective, using geometry in pattern and design, and managing time and resources effectively during projects. Through activities such as grid drawing, symmetry exercises, and 3D construction, students reinforce mathematical concepts in a creative and applied context.</p> <p>Our approach to literacy and numeracy is purposeful and embedded in authentic learning experiences. We work closely with whole-school strategies to support cross-curricular consistency, ensuring that all students, including those with additional needs, are able to access and achieve success in their learning. By strengthening literacy and numeracy within the art curriculum, we aim to equip students with essential skills that extend beyond the classroom, enabling them to become confident communicators, independent thinkers, and creative problem-solvers.</p>
Entitlement and engagement	<p>We are committed to ensuring that all students, regardless of background or ability, have full entitlement to a rich and inclusive visual arts education. We believe that every student deserves the opportunity to access high-quality art experiences that foster creativity, cultural understanding, and personal growth. Our curriculum is designed to be broad, balanced, and representative, offering students the chance to explore a wide range of materials, techniques, and artistic traditions.</p> <p>We aim to remove barriers to engagement by providing differentiated support, celebrating diverse identities, and promoting an open, respectful learning environment. All students are encouraged to find their own voice through art, and to feel a sense of ownership over their creative journey.</p> <p>To further promote engagement, we offer opportunities beyond the classroom, including gallery visits, Art and Photography Clubs and competitions. These experiences help students connect their learning to the wider world and develop a deeper appreciation for the role of art in society.</p> <p>Our intent is to ignite curiosity, build confidence, and nurture a lifelong engagement with the arts. Through inclusive practice and meaningful learning experiences, we aim to ensure that all students feel valued, inspired, and empowered through their participation in art.</p>
Aspiration and wellbeing	<p>The Art Department is deeply committed to fostering aspiration and supporting the wellbeing of all students through a creative, inclusive, and student-centred curriculum. We believe that art plays a vital role in personal development, offering a space for self-expression, emotional exploration, and reflection. Our lessons provide a safe, supportive environment where students are encouraged to take creative risks, express their individuality, and build confidence in their own ideas and abilities.</p> <p>Through the study and practice of art, students are inspired to aim high, think ambitiously, and take pride in their achievements. We actively promote a growth mindset by celebrating progress, effort, and perseverance. By showcasing student work both within school and in the wider community, we help raise aspirations and instil a sense of achievement and self-worth.</p> <p>The department is also mindful of the positive impact creative practice can have on mental health and emotional wellbeing. Our curriculum is designed to be mindful, engaging, and therapeutic, with opportunities for students to work independently, collaborate with others, and explore topics that are personally meaningful.</p> <p>We encourage students to see art not only as a subject, but as a potential pathway into further education, creative careers, and lifelong enrichment. By exposing them to a wide range of artistic influences and professional opportunities, we aim to broaden their horizons and help them envision a successful future.</p> <p>Ultimately, our intent is to ensure that every student feels inspired, supported, and empowered through their art education—both as learners and as individuals.</p>



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Community, respect and enrichment

We are dedicated to fostering a sense of community, respect, and enrichment through inclusive and collaborative creative experiences. We believe that art is a powerful tool for connection, allowing students to explore diverse cultures, perspectives, and identities with empathy and understanding. Our curriculum promotes mutual respect by encouraging students to appreciate and celebrate the work of others, both past and present, and to engage thoughtfully with different viewpoints. There is a culture of integrity, challenge and excellence for both staff and pupils, which has allowed for us to grow.

Enrichment is central to our ethos. Through extracurricular clubs, workshops, competitions, and trips, we broaden students' artistic horizons and inspire them to engage more deeply with the subject, helping to develop confident, compassionate, and culturally aware individuals. At KS4 particularly, we run annual visits to the National Portrait Gallery, the Pitt Rivers Museum, the Fox Talbot Photography Museum and a location shoot at Lacock Village.

Staff within the department strive to enhance their practice and engage well with whole school CPD, whilst also seeking out their own training with exam boards and other practitioners. We are also working with Art and Design colleagues across the trust in sharing and developing schemes.

Curriculum implementation

- At KS3 – 2 lesson per fortnight.
- At KS4 – Year 11 GCSE Art and GCSE Digital Photography - 5 lessons per fortnight.
- Year 10 GCSE Art and GCSE Digital Photography – 6 lessons per fortnight