



Year 3 & 4 – Art & Design Big Questions and Target Memories

2026 – 2027



Pupils should be taught to develop their techniques, including their control and their use of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design.

Pupils should be taught:

- ✓ to create sketch books to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas
- ✓ to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials [for example, pencil, charcoal, paint, clay]
- ✓ about great artists, architects and designers in history.

Term	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Unit title (Access Art)	Gestural drawing with charcoal		Working with shape and colour		Telling stories through making and drawing	
Discipline	Drawing & sketchbooks		Print, colour, collage		Working in 3D	
Big question	<u>How can we use gestural drawing with charcoal to make drawings full of energy and drama?</u>		<u>How can we make our own creative response to an original artwork, using line, shape and colour?</u>		<u>How can we create 3 dimensional characters inspired by characters in film and fiction?</u>	
Target memories	Charcoal is a drawing material that can make light, dark, bold and soft marks. Gestural drawing uses movement of the hand, arm and whole body to create loose and expressive marks. Charcoal can be smudged, rubbed and erased to create different lines, shapes, textures and tones. Tone describes how light or dark something is, and artists use different tones to create depth and drama. Chiaroscuro uses strong contrasts between light and dark to create drama and atmosphere in artwork.		Artists can simplify what they see into shapes and colours to create an artwork. Positive shape is the shape of an object, while negative shape is the space around or between it. Collage is made by cutting, arranging and layering shapes and materials to build an image. Composition is how artists arrange shapes, colours and other elements within an artwork. Artists can add line, colour, marks or print over a collage to create detail, definition and layers		Artists can use stories, films and other art forms as inspiration, then interpret them in their own way. Artists use sketchbooks to explore, test and develop their ideas. Artists can exaggerate line, shape and gesture in drawings to show character and communicate an idea. Sculptors can model or construct materials, using an armature or structure to support a 3D form. Form, texture, materials, colour and construction can be chosen to show a sculpture's character and personality.	



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Term	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Unit title (Access Art)	Storytelling through drawing		Cloth, thread, paint		Exploring still life	Festival feasts
Discipline	Drawing & sketchbooks		Paint, surface, texture		Paint, surface, texture	Collaboration and community
Big question	<u>How can we create visual narratives inspired by poetry or prose?</u>		<u>How can create evocative land and seascapes using fabric, paint and thread? How can we draw upon our mark making skills when working with thread?</u>		<u>How can we use drawing, painting and collage skills to create still life images?</u>	<u>How can we use the skills we have learnt in drawing, painting, making and collage to create artwork which celebrates the food we eat?</u>
Target memories	Artists and illustrators can use drawings to tell stories and communicate ideas to an audience. The choice of drawing materials and marks can change the mood and atmosphere of an illustration. Line, shape, colour and marks can be used to show characters, actions and settings. Composition is how an illustrator arranges characters, objects and spaces to help tell a story. A sequence of drawings can show how a story develops and can be combined with words to add meaning.		Artists can combine materials, such as paint, fabric and thread, to make mixed-media artwork. Marks made with paint can show colour, texture, shape and movement. Stitches and thread can be used like drawn lines to create marks, shapes and textures on cloth. Paint and thread can be layered together so that one material changes and adds to another. Artists choose colour, marks, stitches and materials to communicate what they notice and want to show.		Artists use line, shape, colour, texture, form and tone to make their still life artwork interesting by creating different effects. A still life is an artwork showing a group of objects that have been chosen and arranged by the artist. Artists choose objects for a still life because of their shape, colour, texture or meaning. Composition is how objects, shapes and spaces are arranged within an artwork. Still life can be explored in different ways, including drawing, painting, collage and 3D work	Sculptors can take inspiration from everyday objects and change their size, colour or form to create imaginative artwork. Sculptors use shape, form, colour and texture to make 3D objects interesting and recognisable. Different materials can be shaped, folded, joined and built up to construct 3D forms. A 3D sculpture can be viewed from different angles, so artists think about how it looks from all sides. Sculptures can be arranged together in a space to create a larger artwork called an installation.