Dawn House School:

Art Progression Map

Engage, Develop, Communicate, Aspire



(D1 - D9) Primary 1:

Exploration of Materials:

• Experimenting with different textures, colours, and tools such as brushes, crayons, and fingers.

Sensory Development:

 Engaging with a range of sensory experiences through tactile activities like clay, playdough, and finger painting.

Colour Recognition:

• Learning and identifying different colours, as well as simple colour mixing techniques.

Basic Techniques:

 Introducing basic art techniques such as scribbling, dabbing, brushing, and making marks with a variety of materials.

Creative Expression:

 Encouraging free expression and imagination through drawing, painting, and constructing with a variety of materials.

Fine Motor Skills:

 Developing fine motor control through handling small art tools, such as holding crayons or scissors for cutting simple shapes.

Shape and Form Recognition:

• Identifying and creating basic shapes, and beginning to discuss elements of form.

Observation Skills:

 Starting to draw and paint from observation, not just memory or imagination, such as depicting simple objects and scenes.

(D1 – D9) Primary 2: Enhanced Use of Materials:

 Experimenting with a wider range of materials and tools like different types of paints, markers, and pastels.

Improved Fine Motor Skills:

 Developing greater control over art tools, improving cutting, drawing, and colouring within the lines.

Colour Exploration:

 Understanding primary and secondary colours, and experimenting with colour mixing to see the outcomes.

Basic Drawing Skills:

 Drawing simple representations of people, animals, and objects with recognizable features.

Introduction to Textures:

 Identifying and creating different textures using both natural and synthetic materials.

Shape and Form:

• Exploring the use of different shapes to create more complex drawings and collages.

Pattern Creation and Recognition:

Creating and recognizing patterns, and using them in artworks.

Observational Drawing:

 Beginning to draw more from observation, attempting to capture details of the world around them.

(D1 – D9) Junior: Advanced Use of Materials:

 Further experimentation with a variety of materials, such as clay, textiles, and mixed media.

Enhanced Drawing Skills:

• Developing more detailed drawings with a focus on proportion and perspective basics.

Colour Theory:

 Deepening understanding of colour mixing, including shades and tones.

Form and Structure:

 Beginning to understand and create 3D forms in sculpture and other mediums.

Texture Exploration:

 Creating art that incorporates the sense of touch and visual depth.

Pattern and Design:

• Designing more complex patterns, using them to enhance visual interest in artworks.

Composition Techniques:

• Learning about the arrangement of visual elements to create cohesive works.

Observational Drawing:

 Enhancing skills in drawing from life, focusing on capturing more accurate details.

Expression and Communication:

 Encouraging expression of more complex ideas and emotions through various art forms.

Emotional Expression:

 Using art to express feelings and experiences, recognizing that art can tell stories or represent ideas.

Cultural Awareness:

 Exposure to different forms of art and craft from various cultures to enhance understanding and appreciation.

Group Collaboration:

• Participating in group art projects that promote sharing and cooperation.

Appreciation of Art:

 Beginning to learn how to appreciate and discuss their own artwork and the artwork of others.

Expression of Ideas and Feelings:

Using art to express simple concepts, stories, or emotions.

Understanding of Art and Design Elements:

• Introduction to basic elements of art like line, shape, and colour in compositions.

Cultural Art Forms:

 Exploring a variety of artworks from different cultures to broaden understanding and appreciation.

Critical Appreciation:

• Learning to look at and discuss art, describing what they see and how it makes them feel.

Collaborative Projects:

 Working together on large-scale projects to build teamwork and collaborative skills.

Responsible Use of Resources:

 Learning to use and care for art materials responsibly and safely, including cleaning up their workspace.

Cultural and Historical Context:

• Exploring art from different times and cultures, understanding historical context and techniques.

Critique and Evaluation:

• Developing the ability to talk about their own and others' art, understanding what works and why.

Collaborative Artwork:

• Participating in group projects that require cooperation and shared decision-making.

Sustainable Practices:

 Learning about and using sustainable materials and practices in art projects.

Self-directed Projects:

 Beginning to plan and execute their own art projects based on personal interests or themes.

(D9 - D11) Key Stage 3:

Advanced Drawing Techniques:

• Refining drawing skills with attention to detail, proportion, and perspective.

Experimentation with Mediums:

• Exploring a wider range of mediums including watercolour, acrylics, and pastels.

Colour Theory Mastery:

• Understanding colour harmony, complementary colours, and colour schemes.

Sculpture and 3D Art:

Creating sculptures using various materials such as clay, wire, or found objects.

Mixed Media Exploration:

• Combining different mediums and techniques to create multimedia artworks.

Pattern Design and Repetition:

Creating intricate patterns and designs with a focus on repetition and symmetry.

Introduction to Art History:

 Learning about famous artists, art movements, and historical context to inspire their own work.

Expressive Art:

 Using art as a form of self-expression to convey emotions, experiences, and ideas.

Narrative Art:

 Creating artworks that tell stories or depict scenes from imagination or observation.

Critical Analysis:

 Developing the ability to critique and analyse artworks, identifying strengths and areas for improvement.

Digital Art Skills:

Introducing basic digital art techniques using software or digital drawing tablets.

Environmental Art Awareness:

• Exploring the use of natural materials and themes related to the environment in art projects.

(D11 - D13) Key Stage 4:

Advanced Drawing Techniques:

 Refining drawing skills with more attention to detail, proportion, perspective, and shading.

Exploring Different Mediums:

 Experimenting with a wider range of materials such as charcoal, ink, oil pastels, and watercolours.

Colour Theory:

• Deepening understanding of colour relationships, including complementary, analogous, and triadic colours.

3D Art and Sculpture:

 Creating more complex 3D forms using clay, papier-mâché, wire, and other materials.

Texture and Pattern:

Using a variety of techniques to create texture and pattern in both 2D and 3D artworks.

Composition and Design:

• Understanding and applying principles of composition such as balance, contrast, focal point, and movement.

Art History and Cultural Awareness:

 Learning about significant artists, art movements, and cultural art forms to inspire and inform their own work.

Expressive and Emotional Art:

 Using art to express emotions, ideas, and personal experiences, exploring themes and narratives.

Critical Thinking and Analysis:

Developing the ability to critique their own and others' work, using appropriate art vocabulary.

Observational Skills:

 Enhancing observational drawing skills, focusing on accurate representation of objects, people, and environments.

Digital Art Introduction:

Public Art and Community Projects:

• Collaborating on larger-scale art projects for the school or local community.

Independent Projects:

• Encouraging students to pursue self-directed art projects based on personal interests and themes.

• Introducing basic digital art techniques and tools, such as digital drawing tablets and art software.

Collaborative Projects:

• Working on group projects that involve planning, collaboration, and combining different art forms and techniques.

Reflective Practice:

• Reflecting on their art-making process, discussing what they learned, and identifying areas for improvement.

Presentation and Exhibition:

• Learning how to present and display their artwork effectively, understanding the importance of curation and presentation.

(D13 - D16) GCSE:

Technical Proficiency:

• Mastery of various art techniques including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and digital art.

Creative Thinking:

• Ability to generate original and imaginative ideas for artworks, demonstrating creativity and innovation.

Visual Communication:

• Effectively conveying ideas, emotions, and messages through visual means, understanding the power of imagery.

Research Skills:

• Conducting thorough research on artists, art movements, and cultural contexts to inform artistic practice.

Critical Analysis:

Critically evaluating artworks, identifying strengths, weaknesses, and the underlying concepts or themes.

Conceptual Development:

• Developing concepts and themes for artworks, exploring personal interests and narratives.

Experimentation:

Willingness to experiment with different mediums, techniques, and styles to develop a diverse portfolio.

Composition and Design:

• Understanding principles of composition and design to create visually engaging and balanced artworks.

Observational Drawing:

• Advanced skills in drawing from observation, capturing accurate proportions, details, and perspective.

Colour Theory and Application:

Understanding the psychology of colour, colour mixing techniques, and using colour effectively in artworks.

Material Exploration:

• Exploring a wide range of art materials and their properties, understanding their potential and limitations.

Digital Art Skills:

Proficiency in digital art software and techniques, integrating digital media into traditional art practice.

Portfolio Development:

Curating and presenting a cohesive body of work that showcases artistic development and skills.

Reflective Practice:

• Reflecting on personal progress, strengths, areas for improvement, and setting goals for artistic growth.