

Art Vocabulary

There are 7 elements of Art that pupils should be exposed to yearly, at Castlefields Primary School. These can be taught discreetly or as part of a thematic approach.

Colour

Colour can be a range of different visuals in Art. Most predominantly, colour focuses on artists' emotions. Colour can be used symbolically or to create pattern. Primary colours can also be used to create secondary colours to enhance a piece of art-work.

Form

When a shape acquires depth then it becomes 3D – this is form. This is most notably seen when creating or viewing sculptures, to focus on the shape and size of each piece. However, this can also be used when drawing or painting 3D images when focusing on shade and light.

Line

Lines are the foundation of drawing. They can be straight, curved and even create a 3D effect. They can be abstract or implied and really shape the image an artist is trying to convey. Using different types of line can change the view of art.

Space

Art can be manipulated when space is used correctly. The area of art-work which is occupied is called positive space and any empty spaces are called negative space. Artists often plan their pieces and consider where this space may be by focusing on foreground, middleground and background.

Shape

Shape can be seen in different ways. It can be seen in the form of geometric 2D shapes which are mathematical and precise, or it can be abstract with curves and texture. Shapes can help us to see how we perceive a piece of art.

Texture

Texture is an element of art that plays to our sense of touch. This can be used in sculpture or a 2D piece of art as an artist can build up layers of media to create a certain texture. Alternatively, artists can use texture in the form of 2D work as they could paint a cloud to look fluffy.

Value

Value is the lightness or darkness of a colour. The lightest value is white, and the darkest value is black, but there are always colours in between. This can not only change the form of the art-work, but also change the mood.

Colours Brash Bright Calm Clear Cool Dull Exciting Garish Greyed Multicoloured Muted Pale Primary Secondary Subdued Sweet Warm	Space Deep Flat Negative Positive Open Shallow	Line Blurred Broken Controlled Curved Diagonal Freehand Horizontal Interrupted Geometric Ruled Short Straight Thick Thin Vertical Wide	Texture Actual Bumpy Corrugated Flat Furry Goey Leathery Prickly Rough Sandy Shiny Smooth Soft Sticky Tacky Velvet Wet
Principles Balance Contrast Emphasis Harmony Pattern Repetition Rhythm Unity Variety	Themes Children Cityscape Earth, air, fire, water Gardens Grief History Landscape Love Music Mythology Portrait Religion Seascape Still life Story telling War	Value Dark Light Medium	Shape/Form Closed Distorted Flat Free-form Full of spaces Geometric Heavy Light Linear Massive Open
2-Dimensional Chalk Charcoal Coloured pencil Found materials Ink Oil Pastel Paint Pencil Photograph Print Watercolour	3-Dimensional Clay Fibres Found materials Metal Mixed media Papier mache Plaster Stone Wood	Technique/form Architecture Batik Carving Collage Crafts Jewellery making Metal work Modelling Mosaics Painting Photography Print making Sculpture Weaving	Style or period Abstract Classical Genre Historical Library Narrative Realistic Romantic Renaissance Still life