



# Art & Design Policy

May 2021

<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Next review Due by:</b>	
<b>Any signature required:</b>	



All things are possible for those who believe. (Mark 9:23)  
Learning together we grow in faith.

## **School Ethos Statement**

Our Little Heaton family nurtures a culture of Christian love and respect for each other and the world around us. Through togetherness, patience and compassion is encouraged. By providing creative experiences and challenge for all learners, children grow in resilience, learn to persevere and develop belief in themselves and build hopes and dreams for their future.

As a church school, Little Heaton CE Primary School seeks to promote Christian values and understanding, ensuring that these values permeate the life of the school. The school's ethos of love and care and its commitment to justice, responsibility and resilience are the foundation of its aims in educating the whole school community to make its proper contribution to society. We aim to create an environment in which each person, child and adult, can feel uniquely valued and in which diversity is celebrated.

## **Art & Design at Little Heaton enhances learners:**

Why do we teach art to young children? How does art contribute to their overall development? Much has been written about how art enhances creativity, imagination, and self-esteem in young children, but "far less is said about how art encourages cognition, critical thinking, and learning" (Rayner, 2008).

## **Art Facilitates Social and Cognitive Engagement**

"Art engages children's senses through open-ended play experiences and develops cognitive and socio-emotional competencies. Art provides opportunities for problem solving and divergent thinking" (Rayner, 2010). Collaboration and discussion of ideas are natural by-products of the social interaction that so often surrounds young children's art making. Anyone who has observed child creating or responding to art can attest to the importance of art in the lives of young children.

## **The Language of Art**

Art offers valuable ways of knowing and thinking that no other subject provides. For young children this is particularly relevant. In the early years, children learn to draw before they learn to write. They can make sense of imagery and material culture before they can interpret texts. Visual art is a universal language; unlike text, visual symbol systems are accessible to very young children in the communication or expression of ideas and feelings. Drawing is the first step children take toward learning to write. It connects visual mark making with storytelling. First children's pictures tell stories, then, they learn to tell stories with written words. Drawing is often thought of as pre-writing, and of course, reading and writing are the basis for learning in all other subject areas.

## **Building a Good Work Ethic through Art**

Beyond the expressive and communicative qualities of art, art also teaches young children how to work. Much of their first school experiences are artistic in nature. Children put forth time, effort and thought into the artwork they do in school and this gives them a sense of pride and satisfaction. According to the National Art Education Association (2003), "through art, young children learn the joy of work – work done to the best of one's ability, for its own sake, for the satisfaction of a job well done." It is for all of the reasons that the art education of our youngest citizens should not be thought of as a frill. It is an essential part of a holistic education. If facilitated with care, it can offer a lifetime of benefits, enriching their lives for years to come.

**References**

[Art education: Tips for parent advocacy](#). National Art Education Association, October 2003.

Reyner, A. [Art and creativity in early childhood education](#). 2010.

Reyner, A. [Art influences learning](#). *Early Childhood News: The Professional Resource for Teachers and Parents*, 2008.