



## ARTS POLICY

**Reviewing Member of Staff: Mrs Jessica Aitken**

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**Committee: Learning, Education & Teaching**

At Prince Henry's High School, the Arts-based curriculum is delivered through Art and Design, Music, Drama and the wider school curriculum.

Arts education at Prince Henry's High School is ambitious for all students. It focuses on providing opportunities for students to develop their knowledge and understanding of the arts, including practical, theoretical and disciplinary knowledge. The curriculum allows students to be expressive, innovative and develop creative imagination and thought. It aims to empower students to build a broad, rich and detailed knowledge of the arts. Students learn how to observe, communicate, imagine, create and invent. The curriculum develops creative and critical thinking and is intellectually challenging and creatively demanding. A high-quality, stimulating programme of extracurricular and enrichment activities allows students to explore the arts in a wider context and helps students to build their own enthusiasm and personal approach to the arts.

Through the Arts at Prince Henry's, students are provided with challenging, creative experiences that promote personal development and allow them to acquire the knowledge, experiences and qualifications necessary for the next stage in their education, employment or training.

## **AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

1. We believe that all students have the right to experience ambitious, high-quality Arts education, and we fully support and uphold the aims and objectives of the school's Equality Policy. Confidential SEND information, information from pastoral teams and target-setting data are treated with sensitivity, and used to inform staff, assist with planning, evaluate student progress, address barriers and misconceptions, target relevant students or groups, and plan for future learning.
2. We aim to ensure that access to the Arts allows students to extend their exploration of the spiritual, cultural, moral and ethical aspects of the world in which they live, and that it is our responsibility to ensure they do this at every opportunity.
3. We believe that the Arts should enable students to develop personal qualities such as perseverance, resilience, initiative and independence; to present their views; and to listen responsibly to the views of others. We believe that high expectations of student behaviour should be promoted. Opportunities should be provided for students to discuss ideas, concepts, their own work and the work of others. Students should be actively encouraged to express their opinions and ideas and to listen to the ideas and opinions of others. Students should be expected to take an active role in caring for their environment in and around the departments, and high expectations should be placed on homework and the development of independent learning skills.
4. We believe that a balanced, varied curriculum should be provided for all students. Within this, National Curriculum guidelines and exam board specifications are clearly adhered to. At each Key Stage, the curriculum aims to allow students to develop technical and practical knowledge, as well as to build their understanding and personal appreciation of the Arts. Students are given opportunities to investigate, experiment and explore different media, processes, techniques and ideas. We believe that students should be encouraged to make personal responses to the work of others and to build their knowledge and appreciation of the Arts.
5. We aim to provide a high-quality, stimulating programme of extracurricular and enrichment activities across the Arts. We believe that all students should have access to extracurricular activities, including workshops, visits, clubs and enrichment classes at different times of the day and year. It is our aim, through extracurricular and enrichment activities, to allow students to explore the Arts in a wider context and to help them build their own enthusiasm and personal approach to the Arts. The Bronze Arts Award is offered to students from Year 9 to encourage creativity outside of the curriculum and to reward this.

6. We aim to employ a range of assessment techniques to evaluate student progress, set targets and plan for future learning. We aim to assess work accurately and in line with National Curriculum and exam board criteria. We promote methods of feedback to students in line with exam board and whole-school policy and give students opportunities to respond to feedback and plan for future development.
7. We aim to provide a safe and secure learning environment where students can grow in confidence and are encouraged to take creative risks in their work. Teaching staff refer to departmental risk assessments and use their professional judgement to ensure that all activities are appropriate for the students involved. Students are taught safe working practices, and established practices are regularly reviewed and checked.
8. We believe that high importance should be placed on celebrating and promoting achievement in the Arts. Throughout the academic year, we aim to provide a range of displays, exhibitions and performances of students' work. We aim to use a range of methods and resources to ensure that a wide range of student successes and achievements are celebrated.
9. We aim to provide teachers with professional development opportunities to acquire a wide range of knowledge about the Arts that informs ongoing curriculum development. Opportunities are also provided for teachers to develop their pedagogical content knowledge about ways of making and teaching the Arts.