

Arts Policy

Enabling Creative Innovation:

The Creative Arts Faculty at *Fortismere* is dedicated to nurturing imagination and creativity within our students. Our varied provision spans beyond the curriculum, celebrating the arts in all aspects of school life.

Rationale:

This policy aims to ensure transparency underpins Fortismere's commitment to Arts Education within Secondary education. We proudly hold Music specialist status and celebrate the level of Arts provision across and beyond our curriculum.

Students at Fortismere engage in a wide and varied Arts curriculum. Key Stage 3 provides weekly, timetabled sessions for Art, Music and Drama. GCSE, AS and A2 options are popular supporting a large industry and education trained staff team. Dance is taught at KS3 and GCSE by professional coaches; provision is also available in a number of extra-curricular clubs and as part of a timetabled enrichment opportunity.

Students are provided with a rich and dynamic extra-curricular Arts provision across the disciplines. The focus is on providing contemporary, industry-standard opportunities for all. Students can take part in workshops, specialist training, cultural visits and practitioner-led seminars on a regular basis. All opportunities are inclusive and specialist provision is accommodated for where necessary.

Fortismere students are culturally rich, until recently 10% of students were offered out-of-catchment provision based on musical aptitude (2009-2014). Students are creative, innovative thinkers and are encouraged to apply this skill across the curriculum. Innovation is at the heart of what we do; we believe our students deserve the right to ignite and nurture their talent, confidence and Arts awareness.

Co-operative learning practices underpin all we do within the Arts faculty; we believe that the self-awareness, confidence and analytical approach these practices foster impacts across the curriculum and students' lives.

Students' aspirations are raised through confidence in their ability, specialist support and access to London's cultural offering. We believe that all students should be able to access, engage and create within a safe and exceptional Arts curriculum.

Aims, Objectives and Outcomes:

We provide innovative, engaging and challenging programmes of study for all students, across a range of abilities, at every Key Stage. We strive to consistently meet the following aims:

- To offer high quality, industry reflexive Arts opportunities for all

Objectives and outcomes:

- Offer 8 subjects (Dance, Drama, Art, Music, Music Technology, D&T, Photography and Media) at Key Stage 4
 - Offer 10 subjects (Drama and Theatre Studies, Art, Music, Music Technology, Product Design, Photography, Film Studies, Media Studies, Art History and EPQ) at Key Stage 5
 - Offer 4 timetabled hours per week dedicated to the Arts at Key Stage 3
 - Continue to facilitate and maintain relationships with professional Arts organisations and venues; including regular visits and workshop provision.
- To promote and facilitate inclusive Arts opportunities within school and the wider community

Objectives and outcomes:

- Ensure Arts opportunities are provided within enrichment provision (15%)
 - Celebrate our relationship with Blanch Neville School (at least one joint project per year)
 - To enable and support Arts activities organised by Fortismere School Association (2 projects per year)
- To celebrate diversity through Arts provision and awareness. We seek to narrow-the-gap and raise attainment and access of those with additional needs.

Objectives and outcomes:

- Build on our relationship with Graeae Theatre Company
 - Ensure students' EHCs include Arts provision
 - FSM/Pupil Premium monitoring and intervention practices in place
- To provide a range of industry standard opportunities beyond the confines of the school site

Objectives and outcomes:

- Regular theatre, gallery and concert hall visits (minimum 20 per year)

- Industry led workshops (minimum 10 per year)
- To celebrate individual Arts disciplines (Music, Art, Drama, Dance, Photography, D&T and Media) and cross-art initiatives

Objectives and outcomes:

- Ensure each discipline is celebrated each year through a public sharing
- Develop further opportunities for cross-arts projects at Key Stage 3 (Film Project)
- To ensure our provision is inclusive and reflective of our diverse community

Objective and outcomes:

- Ensuring provision is accessible to all and FSM/Pupil Premium students are monitored and provided for
- Build on relationship with Blanch Neville School
- To provide transferable skills and working practices which impact all areas of the curriculum

Objectives and outcomes:

- Continue to develop and enhance a skills based curriculum at Key Stage 3
- To enrich the cultural capital of our students, staff and wider community

Objective and outcomes:

- Ensure regular opportunities for parents and the wider community can engage with a celebrate our Arts initiatives
- To allow all staff to engage with at least one Arts based external CPD opportunity each year
- To provide an annual Arts based focus day per year at KS3
- Continue to support and expand our FMC to provide diverse and challenging opportunities for students, staff and the wider community.
-
- To develop innovative cultural leaders

Objective and outcomes:

- Ensuring EPQ opportunities are available at Key Stage 5

- Leadership opportunities within Arts subjects will be provided within the curriculum
- Key Stage 3 homework is project based to allow students to develop time management and leadership skills
- Students will be given ownership over elements of our extra-curricular provision with (training-focused) supervision

Principles:

We have embedded the principles of personalised learning taxonomies (Blooms) throughout the curriculum, focusing on pupils' specific needs. We encourage autonomy throughout the Arts curriculum, encouraging students to be proactive, responsible and creative leaders.

The Creative Arts Faculty benefits from committed, highly trained staff, many of whom are still engaged professionally within their discipline. Our staff are actively engaged with the Arts and are committed to offering our students up-to-date experiences which reflect UK and Global Arts development.

Knowledge – We ensure our students are engaging with Arts praxis based on strong contemporary and historical understanding. Our students are academically challenged through Arts theory and practice.

Comprehension – Our practice embodies co-operative learning strategies allowing students to share with their peers regularly to ensure comprehension of task and topic

Application – Every element of our Arts curriculum celebrates praxis; applying theory, practice and creativity in order to bring about development.

Analysis – We encourage students to analyse their own, peer and practitioner practice and theory at every stage across KS3, 4 & 5.

Synthesis – We challenge our students through encouraging and making synthesis accessible through application of skills in public and private forums.

Evaluation – All students are expected to evaluate their and others work through the use of 'What Went Well' and 'Even Better If' at KS3. At KS4 and 5 students evaluate through verbal and written forms both informally and formally throughout their chosen courses.

Monitoring Impact of the Arts:

The impact of our provision will be monitored in two ways. We believe it is important to ensure the Arts retain a cultural importance beyond the assessed curriculum. Therefore we will measure curriculum impact and progression through formal assessment and monitoring. All this data is captured and aggregated through online tool; Go4Schools. This practice is implemented across all key stages. Key Stage 4 and 5 public examination results will be published and analysed to ensure our Arts provision is ensuring success for ALL students across the ability, diversity and economic range. We are committed to narrowing the gap within Arts education in the belief that this will impact students' educational success across the curriculum. Music exams will also be celebrated and documented on student records.

We will also capture the impact of the Arts more informally through newsletters, student feedback, collating an event calendar and monitoring the accessibility and consistency of collaboration both on and off-site.

Review and Revision:

We are committed to reviewing and revising this policy bi-annually.

This policy is endorsed by the governors and senior leadership who will sign-off changes and amendments. Teaching and Learning of Arts subjects will be overseen by the Assistant Head responsible for the Arts ensuring the Arts policy is being upheld. The Head of Faculty will be responsible for ensuring provision and subsequent impact is monitored by Heads of Department on a termly basis. Heads of Department and curriculum/Key Stage leaders will ensure programmes of study are innovative, challenging and upheld by the principles in the above policy. All Arts teaching staff will strive to teach outstanding lessons which meet the objectives outlined above.

Fortismere Creative Arts Faculty June 2014