



# St. Raphaela's Primary School

## Policy for Visual Arts

The purpose of this policy for Visual Arts is to provide an overview on the teaching of Visual Arts as practiced in St. Raphaela's Primary School and to provide a reference framework for all future planning in Visual Arts. This document is primarily intended for the information of our teachers, classroom assistants, and other partners in the education system. Every member of Staff was involved in making this policy. It was agreed by the Board of Management in November 2003 and will be reviewed in Summer 2007.

### **Vision Statement:**

We at St. Raphaela's are committed to promoting the unique giftedness of each child and to helping them to work towards achieving success and excellence in all areas of the Curriculum. We believe that Art offers a very special way for children to express themselves with confidence. It also allows every child to excel whether or not they are academically gifted. For this reason we believe that Visual Arts has a key role to play in the learning process and in helping us to achieve our principal stated objectives.

Our immediate aims in visual arts are:

- To begin to emphasise process versus product when teaching Art.
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum in each class making use of the six strands as outlined in the National Curriculum.
- To begin to create a balance between making and doing and looking and responding by implementing a programme of looking and responding.

### **Curriculum Content:**

Each class will study elements of the six curricular strands as outlined at the end of this document.

### **Equal opportunities:**

We believe that all children have the right to fully enjoy the visual arts curriculum. For this reason we will ensure as far as is possible that no child is withdrawn for learning support during these lessons.

### **Integration with other subjects:**

We will make every effort to integrate our teaching of Art with other subjects in the curriculum. For instance an English poem or a piece of music may serve as a springboard for artwork. Our science lessons will also include making and doing on a regular basis. Where possible we will work thematically across subject areas.

## **Curriculum Time:**

We will allocate 2.5 hours per week to teaching art in the Junior School and 1.5 hours in the Senior School.

## **Display:**

We believe that it is important for each child to see that his/her work is valued by being displayed either in the classroom or through our school. Classroom displays may be done in a rotational manner. There is a school art notice board near the entrance to the school and each class will have an opportunity for one month of the year to display their work in this public place. Each class will keep a portfolio of their work.

## **Assessment:**

Individual teachers and staff will evaluate children's progress on an ongoing basis by referring back to our stated objectives. Teacher's observations will be communicated to parents at parent/teacher meetings and on the end of year report. Each class will keep a portfolio of children's work.

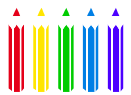
## **Resources:**

At present each teacher purchases her own resources from the Art money which parents contribute at the beginning of each year. We hope to look at whole school purchasing for certain items and creating a central storage area within the next two years. There is a central library of ideas and themes for Art in the staff room.

## **Community Links:**

We will make use of the National Art Gallery as well as local Galleries such as Airfield to ensure that children are exposed to as much art as possible. Whenever we learn of local artists in the area we will invite them to work with us.

## **Curriculum Content for All Classes:**



### **Drawing:**

Children in all classes in our school will be given opportunities to;

- Explore and experiment with age appropriate drawing materials and tools.
- Work with drawing tools on a range of surfaces.
- Make drawings based on their own experiences.
- Make drawings based on their own observations.
- Make drawings based on their imaginations.
- Talk about and write about their own drawings and those of their peers.
- Look at and respond to drawings by artists.
- Develop concepts of the elements of art through engaging with drawing activities.

## Construction:

In every class in our school, children will be provided with opportunities to:

- Explore and experiment with a wide range of construction materials.
- Play with construction games and toys.
- Make imaginative structures to represent their experiences, observations and imagination.
- Make art work in two-dimensional construction.
- Look at and respond to their own constructions and to group constructions.
- Look at and respond to natural and built constructions and to sculpture.
- Develop concepts about the elements of art through working with construction materials.



## Fabric and Fibre:

In every class in our school children will be provided with opportunities to;

- Explore and experiment with a variety of fabric and fibres.
- Change the surface of fabrics.
- Create new fabrics.
- Construct with fabric and fibres.
- Use fabrics and fibres to represent their own experiences, observations and imagination.
- Look at and respond to their own work in fabrics and fibres, to the work of other children and to artists' work in fabric and fibres.
- Develop concepts about the elements of art through working with fabrics and fibres.



## Paint and Colour:

Children in all classes in our school will be given opportunities to;

- Explore and experiment with a range of age appropriate paint and colour materials.
- Work with these materials on a range of surfaces.
- Use paint and colour to represent their own imaginings.
- Talk about their own work and the work of other children in paint and colour.
- Look at and respond to how artists work in paint and colour.
- Develop concepts of the elements of art through engaging with paint and colour materials.



## Print:

In every class in our school children will be provided with opportunities to;

- Explore and experiment with a variety of printing tools and materials.
- Exploring the variety of age appropriate print-making techniques as outlined in the Revised Primary Curriculum 1999.
- Use these print making techniques to represent their experiences, observations and imagination.
- Look at and respond to their own print making efforts, to print in everyday use, to print in the environment and to prints created by artists.

- Develop concepts about the elements of art through working with print making materials.



## Clay:

In every class in our school children will be provided with opportunities to

- Experiment with clay and with clay tools.
- Experience learning about age appropriate pottery techniques as outlined in the Revised Primary Curriculum 1999.
- Use clay/pottery techniques as a medium for representing their experiences,
- Observations and imagination.
- Explore a variety of other materials such as playdoughs and bulk mache to develop their concept of form.
- Develop concepts about the elements of art through working with clay.
- Look at and talk about their own work and the work of other children.
- Look at and respond to pottery and ceramics.