



Art & Design end of year milestones 2025-26

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Generating Ideas	Recognise that ideas can be expressed in art work. Experiment with an open mind (for instance, they enthusiastically try out and use all materials that are presented to them)	Try out different activities and make sensible choices about what to do next Use drawing to record ideas and experiences.	Gather and review information, references, and resources related to their ideas and intentions. Use the floorbook for different purposes, including recording observations, planning, and shaping ideas.	Select and use relevant resources and references to develop their ideas. Use the floorbooks and drawing purposefully to improve understanding, inform ideas, and plan for an outcome. (for instance, the floorbook will show several different versions of an idea and how research has led to improvements in their proposed outcome.)	Engage in open-ended research and exploration in the process of initiating and developing their own personal ideas. Confidently use the floorbook for a variety of purposes including recording observations, developing ideas, testing materials, planning, and recording information.	Independently develop a range of ideas that show curiosity, imagination, and originality. Systematically investigate, research, and test ideas and plans using the floor book and other appropriate approaches. (for instance, the floorbook will show in advance how work will be produced and how the qualities of materials will be used.
Making	Try out a range of materials and processes and recognise that they have different qualities. Use materials purposefully to achieve particular characteristics or qualities.	Deliberately choose to use particular techniques for a given purpose. Develop and exercise some care and control over the range of materials they use. (for instance, they do not accept the first mark but seek to refine and improve.	Develop practical skills by experimenting with and testing the qualities of a range of different materials and techniques. Select and use appropriately a variety of materials and techniques to create their own work.	Investigate the nature and qualities of different materials and processes systematically. Apply the technical skills they are learning to improve the quality of their work. (for instance, in painting, they select and use different brushes for different purposes)	Confidently investigate and exploit the potential of new and unfamiliar materials (for instance, try out several different ways of using tools and materials that are new to them). Use their acquired technical expertise to make work that effectively reflects their ideas and inventions.	Independently take action to refine their technical and craft skills to improve their mastery of materials and techniques. Independently select and effectively use relevant processes to create successful and finished work
Evaluating	Show interest in and describe what they think about the work of others.	When looking at creative work, express clear preferences and give some reasons for these (for instance, be able to say "I like that because...")	Take the time to reflect upon what they like and dislike about their work to improve it (for instance, they think carefully before explaining to their teacher what they like and what they will do next.	Regularly reflect upon their own work, and use comparisons with the work of others (pupils and artists) to identify how to improve.	Regularly analyse and reflect on their progress, taking account of what they hoped to achieve.	Provide a reasoned evaluation of both their own and professionals' work, which takes account of the starting points, intentions, and context behind the work
Knowledge and Understanding	How to recognise and describe some simple characteristics of different kinds of art, craft, and design. The names of the tools, techniques and the formal elements (colours, shapes, tones etc.) that they use.	That different forms of creative works are made by artists, craftspeople and designers, from all cultures and times. And be able to talk about the materials, techniques and processes they have used, using an appropriate vocabulary (for instance, they know the names of the tools and the colours that they use.	About and describe the work of some artists, craftspeople, architects and designers. Be able to explain how to use some of the tools and techniques they have chosen to work with.	About and describe some of the key ideas, techniques and working practices of a variety of artists, craftspeople, architects and designers that they have studied. About, and be able to demonstrate how tools they have chosen to work with, should be used effectively and with safety.	Research and discuss the ideas and approaches of a various artists, craftspeople, designers and architects, taking account of their particular cultural context and intentions. How to describe the processes they are using and how they hope to achieve high quality outcomes.	How to describe, interpret and explain the work, ideas, and working practices of some significant artists, craftspeople, designers, and architects, taking account of the influence of the different historical, cultural, and social contexts in which they worked. About the technical vocabulary and techniques for modifying the qualities of different materials and processes.