

Art Skills Ladder



Year 1

Ar1 Drawing Explore the use of line, shape and colour

Ar2 Painting Explore a variety of tools and techniques including the use of different brush sizes and types

Ar3 Printing Make marks in print with a variety of objects, including natural and made objects

Ar4 Textiles/Collage Investigate using a wide variety of media, including card, fabric, plastic, tissue, magazines, crepe paper etc.

Ar5 3D-Form Explore sculpture with a range of malleable media e.g. clay

Ar6 Recognise pattern in the environment

Ar7 Respond to ideas

Ar8 Make changes to their own work

Ar9 Drawing Use a variety of tools, including pencils, crayons, pastels, felt tips, charcoal, ballpoints, chalk and other dry media

Ar10 Painting Use different brush sizes and types

Ar11 Printing Build a repeating pattern

Ar12 Textiles/Collage Use a variety of techniques e.g. weaving, fabric crayons, sewing

Ar13 3D-Form Manipulate materials in a variety of ways e.g. rolling, kneading and shaping

Expressive Arts

Art Skills Ladder



Year 2

Ar14 Explore ideas

Ar15 Drawing Experiment with the visual elements of line, shape, pattern and colour

Ar16 Drawing Work out ideas for drawings in a sketchbook

Ar17 Painting Experiment with a variety of tools and techniques, including mixing a range of secondary colours, shades and tones

Ar18 Printing Investigate and design patterns of increasing complexity and repetition

Ar19 Textile/Collage Explore texture using a variety of media

Ar20 3D-Form Experiment with, construct and join recycled, natural and man-made materials more confidently

Ar21 Observe and comment on differences in their own and others' work

Ar22 Drawing Draw for a sustained period of time using real objects, including single and grouped objects

Ar23 Observe the work of a range of artists, craft makers and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work

Ar24 Drawing Layer different media e.g. crayons, pastels, felt tips, charcoal and ballpoint

Ar25 Painting Work on a range of scales e.g. large brush on large paper etc.

Ar26 Printing Use a variety of techniques e.g. fabric printing, rubbings Design patterns of increasing complexity and repetition.

Ar27 Printing Print using a variety of materials, objects and techniques.

Ar28 Textile/Collage Use a variety of techniques e.g. tie-dyeing, wax or oil resist, mosaic

Ar29 3D-Form Manipulate clay for a variety of purposes e.g. thumb pots, simple coil pots and models

Expressive Arts

Art Skills Ladder

Year 3



Ar30 Drawing Experiment with different grades of pencil and other implements

Ar31 Painting Experiment with different effects and textures e.g. blocking in colour, colour washes, thickened paint etc.

Ar32 Printing Explore pattern and shape, creating designs for printing

Ar33 Textiles/Collage Experiment with a range of media e.g. overlapping, layering etc.

Ar34 Modelling and Sculpting Research, plan, design and make models

Ar35 Find out about artists, architects and designers

Ar36 Drawing Use their sketchbook to observe, collect and record visual information from different sources

Ar37 Printing Observe and discuss the processes used to produce a simple print

Ar38 Drawing Use different media to achieve variations in line, texture, tone, colour, shape and pattern

Ar39 Drawing Draw independently for a sustained period of time

Ar40 Plan, refine and alter their work as necessary

Ar41 Painting Work confidently on a range of scales e.g. thin brush on small picture etc.

Ar42 Painting Mix a variety of colours and know which primary colours make secondary colours

Ar43 Printing Print using a variety of materials, objects and techniques including layering.

Ar44 Textiles/Collage Use a variety of techniques e.g. quilting, weaving, embroidery, appliqué and develop skills in stitching, cutting and joining

Ar45 Modelling and Sculpting Work with a degree of independence

Ar46 Modelling and Sculpting Construct a simple clay base for extending and modelling other shapes

Ar47 Modelling and Sculpting Make a simple papier mache object

Ar48 Design and create images and artefacts in response to their personal ideas

Art Skills Ladder

Year 4



Ar49 Drawing Explore relationships between line and tone, pattern and shape, line and texture and make informed choices in drawing, including use of paper and media

Ar50 Painting Show increasing independence and creativity with the painting process, demonstrating a willingness to experiment and take risks

Ar51 Printing Research, create and refine a print using a variety of techniques

Ar52 Printing Explore resist printing including marbling and silkscreen

Ar53 Textiles/Collage Experiment with paste resist

Ar54 Find out about artists, architects and designers

Ar55 Drawing Use research to inspire drawings from memory and imagination

Ar56 Drawing Alter and refine drawings and describe changes, based on close observation, using appropriate vocabulary

Ar57 Textiles/Collage Match the correct tool to the material

Ar58 Modelling and Sculpting Through observation, talk about their own and others' work, understanding that it has been sculpted, modelled or constructed

Ar59 Drawing Make informed choices in drawing including use of paper and media

Ar60 Drawing Collect images and information independently in a sketchbook

Ar61 Painting Make and match colours with increasing accuracy

Ar62 Painting Use more specific colour language e.g. tint, tone, shade, hue.

Ar63 Painting Plan and create different effects and textures with paint

Ar64 Printing Select broadly the kinds of material to print with in order to achieve the desired effect

Ar65 Textiles/Collage Choose collage or textiles as a means of extending work already achieved.

Ar66 Modelling and Sculpting Show an understanding of shape, space and form

Ar67 Modelling and Sculpting Plan, design, make and adapt models using a variety of materials

Ar68 Modelling and Sculpting Talk about their work, understanding that it has been sculpted, modelled or constructed

Ar69 Design and create images and artefacts for clearly defined purposes

Art Skills Ladder



Year 5

Ar70 Drawing Research and use a variety of source material for their work

Ar71 Drawing Explore the potential properties of the visual elements of line, tone, pattern, texture, colour and shape

Ar72 Painting Work on preliminary studies to test media and materials Investigate, explore and record information to generate imaginative ideas

Ar73 Drawing Work in a sustained and independent way from observation, experience and imagination

Ar74 Printing Become familiar with new techniques e.g. the use of poly-blocks, relief, mono and resist printing

Ar75 Compare and comment on ideas, methods and approaches used in their own and others' work, beginning to relate these to intention, in order to adapt and improve outcomes

Ar76 Drawing Use a sketchbook to develop ideas

Ar77 Painting Demonstrate a secure knowledge about primary and secondary, warm and cold, complementary and contrasting colours

Ar78 Painting Create imaginative work from a variety of sources

Ar79 Printing Choose the printing method appropriate to task

Ar80 Printing Build up layers and colours/textures

Ar81 Printing Organise their work in terms of pattern, repetition, symmetry or random printing styles

Ar82 Textiles/Collage Join fabrics in different ways, including stitching

Ar83 Textiles/Collage Use a range of media to create collage

Ar84 3-D Form Use recycled, natural and man-made materials to create sculpture

Ar85 3-D Form Plan a sculpture through drawing and other preparatory work

Ar86 Design and create images and artefacts in response to personal ideas and for clearly defined purposes by selecting and developing techniques and using a range of materials

Expressive Arts



Art Skills Ladder

Year 6

Ar87 Drawing Manipulate and experiment with the elements of art: line, tone, pattern, texture, form, space, colour and shape.

Ar88 Painting Carry out preliminary studies, test media and materials and mix appropriate colours

Ar89 Painting Work from a variety of sources, including some researched independently

Ar90 Modelling and Sculpting Explore further the use of clay e.g. slabs, coils, slips, etc.

Ar91 Investigate, explore and record information about famous artists showing appreciation of aesthetic qualities

Ar92 Drawing Identify artists who have worked in a similar way to their own work

Ar93 Analyse and comment on ideas and methods

Ar94 Drawing Demonstrate a wide variety of ways to make different marks with dry and wet media

Ar95 Drawing Develop ideas using different or mixed media, using a sketchbook

Ar96 Drawing Manipulate and experiment with the elements of art: line, tone, pattern, texture, form, space, colour and shape

Ar97 Painting Choose appropriate paint, paper and implements to adapt and extend their work

Ar98 Painting Create shades and tints using black and white. Work from a variety of sources, including some researched independently

Ar99 Painting Show an awareness of how paintings are created

Ar100 Printing Describe varied techniques

Ar101 Printing Show confidence in printing on paper and fabric

Ar102 Textiles/Collage Show awareness of the potential of the uses of materials

Ar103 Textiles/Collage Use different techniques, colours and textures when designing and making pieces of work

Ar104 Modelling and Sculpting Create sculpture and constructions with increasing independence