

## **Arts Policy for St Osmund's Middle School, Dorchester**

Currently under review.

### **AIM**

Our school endeavours to provide an arts rich curriculum to every pupil with further opportunities for arts experiences offered through extra-curricular activities and visits.

### **Objectives**

- To provide an arts curriculum of high quality
- To provide the widest possible range of Art, Music, Dance and Drama experiences during the course of their 4 years in the school
- To ensure that every child receives a timetabled weekly lesson in Art, Music and Drama; to provide as much Dance experience as can be organised within the constraints of staff expertise availability
- To provide a wide scope of opportunities for cross-curricular work
- To provide opportunities for all pupils to study a musical instrument and to play the instrument in performance
- To enable pupils to work alongside artists and the local community
- To explore all opportunities to take pupils to see exhibitions/performances of work by professional artists

### **Current Specific Targets**

- To continue to develop the use of ICT resources in all creative arts areas
- To train and support teachers in the effective use of ICT resources to enhance teaching and Learning in the creative arts subjects
- To increase the time devoted to dance teaching (staffing/timetable implications)
- To seek to employ a teacher with ability and enthusiasm for dance
- To increase CPD opportunities for teachers of the arts through performance management objectives

### **Arts in the curriculum: time allocation**

- ART: taught for one hour per week, in a purpose-built art room environment, for every pupil
- DANCE: taught within PE time in discrete units; 6 hours per child over the course of the year. Takes place in sports hall environment OR smaller school hall. Dependent on staff strengths.
- DRAMA: taught for one hour per week, in a purpose-built studio environment, for every pupil
- MUSIC: taught for one hour per week to every pupil, in a purpose-built music studio

All areas are well resourced in terms of space and equipment.

### **Extra-curricular Arts: time provision**

Clubs are offered on a regular basis in all arts areas to all year groups. In 2004/5 these include: Art clubs(including pottery), dance club, drama club and many opportunities for musical activities (St Osmund's Singers; St Osmund's Choir; Big Band; Steel Band x2; Junior Band, String quartet.

Tuition in Flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, violin, cello, double bass, trumpet, cornet, French horn, euphonium, orchestral percussion, drums, steel drums, guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, piano and voice is available. These are taught by some of St Osmund's staff, visiting teachers and LEA peripatetic teachers.

### **Range of Experiences offered**

Pupils are able to extend the range of arts experiences they receive within curriculum time. They are encouraged to improve their expertise in all art forms and audition for a variety of school and locally-based arts groups:

Instrumentalists can be part of one or more of the music groups and can also take grade examinations, perform in and out of school at public performances (e.g. charity concerts, Local first schools, as well as other larger events - e.g. choir at Albert Hall)

Drama club members can audition for school performances; become members of the Dorchester youth Theatre, Stagecoach or Weymouth Youth Workshop

Dance club members can go on to audition for Dorset Youth Dance group when in Year 9.

All pupils are offered opportunities to visit local and other venues (by coach) for performances of theatre, dance or musical events.

In the past, grants have been sought from various funding agencies to provide further opportunities for developing arts experiences in school, such as Riverbank Art, Geoff Fox's up and Down the City Road, Intercultural concert with Roger ???? and African Arts Week.

Project Week each year in May is yet another opportunity for devoting time to the arts.

A day in December is devoted to creating and making Christmas gift items such as candles, cards, tags, sweets, cakes, table mats, tree decorations, table displays, crackers, jewellery etc etc. Year 5 and Year 8 friends work together for the day to make the products which are sold by them at our Christmas Fair.

### **Arts qualifications and Expertise of Staff**

Subject Leader for Music

Specialist teacher of music across the school - teaches almost every child!

- BA hons, LRAM, ARCM, Cert. Ed.
- Professional pianist
- Choral director
- Member of and prime instigator of Dorchester Music Partnership of schools (now DASP centrally coordinated from St Osmund's)

- His choral groups, bands and orchestral groups are regularly asked to perform as entertainment in local venues

Subject Leader for Art

Specialist Teacher of Art across the school

- Experienced teacher in a variety of visual arts, 3D, textiles, various crafts and resistant materials, pottery, printing

Subject Leader for Drama

Subject Leaders are supported by a team of dedicated staff, several of whom are talented in the areas of Art, Dance, Drama and Music.

Arts Facilities

The last headteacher (now retired) and staff of St Osmund's have worked hard to obtain the funding from specialists and arts advisors over the years, to improve facilities and resources in the arts.

School facilities now include:

- A custom-built music studio with many instruments, keyboards and recording facilities
- A custom-acquired dance/drama studio with blackout curtains, lighting rigs, staging, props and costumes, TV, video, digital camcorders
- A large, light, purpose-built art room with facilities for clay firing, spraying, storage and display, computers, printers and scanners.
- A custom-built textiles room with electric sewing machines, digital camera, computers and facilities for dyeing, printing and batik.
- Attractive display areas around the school, regularly changed
- A large sports hall, facilitating the teaching of dance in more than one space and providing space for performances in front of larger audiences