



Summary: (Reception to Year 6)

The following tables summarise the progression of skills and knowledge in each strand from Reception to Year 6. It is designed to inform parents about how children's understanding and artistic abilities develop over time.

BIG IDEA: Human Kind: Progression Summary

Year Group	Key Knowledge	Skill Focus	Art Concept
Reception	A face has two eyes, a nose and a mouth.	Represent body parts with attention to detail.	Human Form
Year 1	Portraits, self-portraits, collage.	Represent the human face using various media.	Human Face
Year 2	Line drawings, sketches, self-portraits.	Represent the human form including facial features.	Human Form
Year 3	Use of lines, shapes, and poses.	Draw, paint or sculpt human figures in poses.	Human Figure
Year 4	Art can tell a story or narrative.	Explore 3D art using the human form.	3D Human Form
Year 5	Expressionism shows emotion.	Create expressive portraiture.	Expression in Portraiture
Year 6	Art can express personal or social themes.	Use abstraction and exaggeration in figure drawing.	Abstracted Human Form

BIG IDEA: Creativity: Progression Summary

Concepts:	Creation in Art		Generation of Ideas		Evaluation	
Year Group	Core Knowledge	Skill Focus	Core Knowledge	Skill Focus	Core Knowledge	Skill Focus
Reception	Art can be made using lots of different resources.	Create art in different ways on a theme to express ideas and feelings.	Children can use different materials to make art and talk about what they are making.	Share ideas while creating artwork.	Children explain what they made and the tools they used.	Talk about their artwork and how they made it.

Year 1	Observation, imagination, memory; prints and collagraphs.	Design and make art to express ideas.	Children can talk about their ideas before making art. They can use drawings to help explain.	Say what they want to make before starting.	Talk about colours, shapes, and feelings in the artwork.	Say what they like about their own or others' work.
Year 2	Materials suited to tasks: ink, paper, clay, etc.	Select the best materials and techniques to develop an idea.	Children use quick sketches to show colour, shape and texture. Sketches help plan final artwork.	Make simple sketches to plan ideas.	Discuss subject, colour, shape, and texture.	Describe and think about their own and others' work.
Year 3	Visual elements can be combined in different ways.	Use and combine a range of visual elements in artwork.	Artists write notes in their sketchbooks to explain their ideas.	Use sketchbooks to try out ideas and techniques.	Think about how to change colours, shapes, or techniques.	Suggest ways to improve their artwork.
Year 4	Weaving, Islamic art, composition.	Develop techniques through experimentation.	Sketches and models can be improved over time. This is normal in art.	Make a series of sketches to improve ideas.	Say what works well and what could be better.	Give helpful feedback to others.
Year 5	Land art; simplifying landscapes.	Produce creative work on a theme, developing ideas through sketches or models.	Artists often start with sketches and models before making final artwork.	Look back at ideas and improve them.	Talk about the message and techniques used in the artwork.	Compare ideas and methods in art.
Year 6	Art can express personal or social themes.	Create innovative art with personal, historic or conceptual meaning.	Sketchbooks help artists think about their own and others' work. They include drawings and notes.	Use sketchbooks and mood boards to plan and develop ideas.	Use feedback to make changes & think about their ideas & techniques.	Improve their art using feedback and reflection.

BIG IDEA: Materials: Progression Summary

Concepts:	Malleable Materials		Paper, Fabric, Metal and Plastic		Paint and Colour	
Year Group	Core Knowledge	Skill Focus	Core Knowledge	Skill Focus	Core Knowledge	Skill Focus
Reception	Some materials are soft and easy to shape, others are harder.	Shape soft materials using hands & simple tools.	Learn to use soft materials like paper and fabric.	Cut, tear, fold and stick different materials.	Mixing colours creates new ones. Adding white makes colours lighter, black makes them darker.	Use different colours and painting methods.

Year 1	Clay, plasticine and dough can be shaped in many ways. Paper and card can be layered to make 3D art.	Shape materials by squeezing, pressing, rolling, etc. Cut and layer paper to make simple 3D forms.	Collages are made by joining materials. Use paper and card to make simple shapes.	Use paper and fabric to make collages and simple forms.	Primary colours are red, yellow, blue. Mixing them makes secondary colours like green, orange, purple.	Use and name primary and secondary colours.
Year 2	Soft materials like clay can be used to make patterns using objects like leaves or bubble wrap.	Press objects into soft materials to make patterns and textures.	Textures can be rough, smooth, soft or bumpy. Use materials like tissue paper and string.	Use different materials to make shapes and textures.	Secondary colours are orange, purple, green. Colours can make patterns. Colour wheels show colour relationships.	Mix and name secondary colours. Use colours to make patterns.
Year 3	Clay can be shaped into coils, pinch pots, and joined with slip.	Make 3D forms using soft or hard materials like clay.	Weaving uses threads that go up and down (warp) and side to side (weft).	Weave materials to make pictures or patterns.	Artists use colour to create mood & contrast. Complementary colours are opposite on the colour wheel.	Use contrasting colours in painting.
Year 4	Clay can be shaped around a frame (armature) using different techniques.	Use clay to make detailed or experimental 3D art.	Use stitches like running stitch and cross stitch to decorate fabric.	Add detail to fabric using different stitches.	Warm colours use reds and yellows. Cool colours use blues and greens.	Use warm and cool colours to show temperature in art.
Year 5	Relief sculptures stick out from a flat surface. Casting uses moulds to shape materials.	Make relief sculptures using different tools and materials.	Traditional paper crafts include origami, marbling and paper making.	Make and use paper for traditional crafts.	Tints are colours mixed with white. Shades are colours mixed with black. Tones use grey.	Mix and use tints, shades and tones.
Year 6	3D art can be made by carving, shaping or building, inspired by famous artists or designers.	Create 3D art in the style of a well-known artist or designer.	Add decorations like glitter and stitching to mixed media art.	Combine materials to create textured artwork.	Artists use colour in different ways. Movements like Pop Art and Impressionism use colour to express ideas.	Use colour theory to create expressive artwork.

Concepts:	Printing		Pencil, Ink, Charcoal and Pen	
Year Group	Core Knowledge	Skill Focus	Core Knowledge	Skill Focus
Reception	Some materials are soft and easy to shape, others are harder.	Make simple prints using tools like blocks and rollers.	Different lines include thick, thin, straight, zigzag, curvy and dotted.	Choose tools and media to draw with.
Year 1	Prints are made by pressing paint or ink. Collagraphs are	Make prints and patterns using ink and paint.	Soft pencils make dark lines, hard pencils make light lines. Lines can be zigzag, wavy, curved, thick or thin.	Use soft and hard pencils to draw lines and shapes.

	textured blocks used for printing.			
Year 2	Blocks are flat surfaces used for printing. Two-colour prints layer two colours.	Use materials like clay or polystyrene to make block prints.	Shapes are made by enclosing space with lines. Shape is a key part of art.	Use pencil, ink and charcoal to explore patterns, textures and shapes.
Year 3	Lino printing involves carving. Unit prints are made by pressing inked objects.	Make a print using two colours.	Hatching and cross-hatching are ways to shade and show depth.	Add tone using hatching, cross-hatching, scumbling and stippling.
Year 4	Printing methods include lino, block, and collagraphy. Motifs are repeated shapes or patterns.	Use different printing methods and materials to create themed prints.	Simple shapes help draw animals and keep proportions correct.	Use pen, ink and charcoal to create different drawing effects.
Year 5	Overlay text adds meaning to artwork.	Add printed text or materials to photos.	Ink wash uses water to change shade. It helps show light and depth.	Use pen, ink, chalk and charcoal to show light, shade and perspective.
Year 6	Stencils create prints by applying ink through cut-out shapes. Each print may vary slightly.	Use famous printmakers or techniques to inspire your prints.	Line shows shape, detail and texture. It is key in observational drawing.	Use line, tone or shape to show detail or perspective in drawings.

BIG IDEA: Nature: Progression Summary

Concept	Natural Art	
Year Group	Key Knowledge	Skill Focus
Reception	Use natural materials like logs, pebbles, and clay to make simple 2D and 3D art.	Make art using natural materials and simple tools.
Year 1	Use natural items like leaves and pebbles to make temporary art. Best recorded with a photo.	Make temporary art using natural and human-made materials.
Year 2	Use natural materials like clay and sand to model. Inspired by artist Yayoi Kusama.	Draw, paint and sculpt nature from observation or imagination.
Year 3	Use stones, shells, and twigs to make patterns like zigzags and dots.	Use nature as inspiration for artwork.
Year 4	Explore patterns in nature like water, weather, or animal skins.	Show detailed natural patterns in art.
Year 5	Use photography techniques to take clear pictures of nature.	Take and edit photos of nature and landscapes.
Year 6	Create art that shares a message about the environment.	Make art with an environmental theme.

BIG IDEA: Place and Space: Progression Summary

Concept	Landscapes	
Year Group	Key Knowledge	Skill Focus
Reception	Animals live in different places.	Draw or paint a place using imagination or observation.
Year 1	Landscapes show natural and human-made things. Stephen Wiltshire draws places from memory.	Draw or paint a place from memory, imagination or observation.
Year 2	Seascapes show scenic views. Famous examples include The Great Wave and Monet's Stormy Sea.	Draw or paint parts of a landscape or seascape with some detail.
Year 3	Urban landscapes show towns or cities.	Create urban landscapes using drawing, collage, painting or photography.
Year 4	Art can show interesting viewpoints.	Choose an interesting viewpoint for a landscape.
Year 5	Landscapes have foreground, middle ground and background. Horizon and perspective add depth.	Use different materials to create imaginative landscapes.
Year 6	Perspective shows 3D objects on a flat surface.	Create landscape art with or without typical perspective.

BIG IDEA: Comparison: Progression Summary

Concept	Compare and Contrast	
Year Group	Key Knowledge	Skill Focus
Reception	Talk about what is the same or different in their own and others' art.	Share ideas about colour, size, subject and tools used.
Year 1	Art can look different because of colours or style. Textures feel different.	Say what is similar or different in two artworks. Compare textures.
Year 2	Artists use different styles, colours and shapes even on the same theme.	Describe how artworks are similar or different.
Year 3	Artists and designers have unique styles. Styles change over time.	Compare styles and features of artists and designers.
Year 4	Art from different cultures and times uses different colours, shapes and subjects.	Talk about how art is different across cultures and history.
Year 5	Different cultures and artists use colour, shape and texture in unique ways.	Discuss how artists and cultures use visual elements.
Year 6	Art can be compared by mood, meaning and style.	Compare how artists use perspective, abstract and figurative styles.

BIG IDEA: Significance: Progression Summary

Concept	Significant People, Artwork and Movements	
Year Group	Key Knowledge	Skill Focus
Reception	Artists create paintings and sculptures. Henri Matisse was a famous artist.	Talk about famous artists and share what they like or dislike.
Year 1	James Rizzi was a well-known American artist.	Describe and explore the work of a known artist.
Year 2	Portraits showed people before cameras. Hans Holbein was a Tudor portrait artist. Still life artists include van Gogh, Cézanne, Monet and Matisse.	Explain why an artwork or artist is important.
Year 3	LS Lowry painted city scenes. Katie Scott is a modern botanical artist.	Create art in the style of a known artist or designer.
Year 4	Bankura horses are famous in India. Artists like Stubbs and Hirst made animal art. Islamic art includes religious designs and buildings.	Explain the importance of historical art and create inspired work.
Year 5	Edvard Munch's The Scream shows emotion. Expressionist art uses bold colours and strong lines.	Explore and create art using styles from art movements.
Year 6	Inuit artists show respect for nature. Black artists like Chris Ofili tell stories about history and culture.	Explain the importance of different artists and artworks and use their ideas.