



Long-Term Curriculum Overview: Antarctica Art

Key Stage(s): 2/3

Curriculum Lead: Amy Rose

Academic Year: 2025-2026

Curriculum Intent

Our curriculum aims to nurture the whole child, supporting emotional wellbeing, resilience, and positive mental health. We focus on creating safe, inclusive environments where pupils with SEMH needs can thrive academically and personally. The curriculum is personalised and underpinned by strong relationships and consistency.

Curriculum Implementation

- Structured Routine: Clear, consistent lessons to support the reduction of anxiety and increase engagement.
- Therapeutic Approaches: Use of Zones of Regulation.
- Adapted Curriculum: Use of accessible activities and adapted scaffolding to meet the needs of all learners.
- Environment: Calming, sensory-aware settings.

Curriculum Impact

- Pupils develop emotional literacy and self-regulation.
- Increased engagement and attendance.
- Reduced behavioural incidents.
- Positive relationships with peers and adults.
- Preparation for transitions and independence.

Term	Topic / Learning Focus	Links towards EHCP Outcomes	Independent Skills Development	Assessment / Reflection of Learning	Resources / Programmes Used
Autumn 1	ANTARCTICA inspired Artists and Art	<p>Communication & Interaction: Describing icy landscapes and interpreting abstract polar-themed art.</p> <p>Cognition & Learning: Exploring the unique environment of Antarctica and how it inspires artistic expression.</p> <p>Social, emotional and mental health: Using cold, calm imagery to support emotional regulation and mindfulness.</p> <p>Sensory/Physical: Engaging with cool colours, textures, and mixed media.</p>	<p>Making independent choices in materials and techniques.</p> <p>Expressing personal responses to remote and unfamiliar environments.</p> <p>Building resilience through creative challenges.</p>	<p>Observations during creative tasks. Reflections on emotional responses to art.</p> <p>Peer feedback and group discussions.</p> <p>Sketchbooks or visual journals.</p>	<p>Studies of artists inspired by Antarctica (e.g. Zaria Forman, Nicky Hirst). Ice-themed sensory materials (e.g. salt, foil, watercolour). Visual aids and documentaries. Zones of Regulation for emotional reflection.</p>
Autumn 2	Hope & History: War stories in Art	<p>Cognition: Understanding historical narratives.</p> <p>Social, emotional and mental health: Processing emotions related to conflict and</p>	<p>Students plan and sequence their own narrative artwork.</p> <p>Encouraged to choose media and</p>	<p>Annotated sketches, group discussions, emotion mapping, and teacher questioning.</p>	<p>Historical photo prompts, mixed media, emotion cards, calming corner access.</p>

		resilience. Communication: Visual storytelling.	reflect on emotional themes.		
Spring 1	My Place in Space	Cognition: Learning about spatial relationships. Social, emotional and mental health: Building a sense of place and belonging. Sensory: Visual and tactile exploration.	Following multi-step instructions, using tools safely, and making creative decisions independently.	Final piece presentations, peer sharing, and teacher-led questioning.	Planet models, glow-in-the-dark paints, visual aids, sensory-friendly lighting.
Spring 2	Curious Creations – Exploring Wonderland through Art	Communication: Expressing imaginative ideas. Social, emotional and mental health: Safe exploration of fantasy. Sensory: Engaging with textures and vibrant visuals.	Encouraging risk-taking in creativity and developing a personal artistic style.	Creative journals, group critiques, and reflective discussions.	Wonderland visuals, collage materials, story-based prompts, sensory bins.
Summer 1	Our Feelings Forecast – Painting our Feelings	Social, emotional and mental health: Identifying and expressing emotions. Communication: Using visual language to convey feelings. Sensory: Exploring paint textures.	Choosing colours and tools to represent emotions. Developing emotional vocabulary through art.	Emotion check-ins, reflective art pieces, Zones of Regulation tracking.	Emotion wheels, calming music, paint mixing trays, visual emotion prompts.

Summer 2	The Shape of Creativity	Cognition: Recognising and manipulating shapes. Social, emotional and mental health needs Building confidence through structured creativity. Sensory: Shape-based tactile tasks.	Problem-solving through design and independently planning final projects.	Shape hunts, final project evaluations, peer feedback.	Foam shapes, 3D modelling materials, visual instructions, adaptive tools.
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