

Our Lady's Catholic High School

Expressive Arts Policy

'Our Lady's is first and foremost a Catholic school. It follows from this that the ethos of our school should reflect the values proclaimed by Christ in the Gospels and recognise the unique value of each individual. Our Mission is to be a Faith Community which, through following Gospel Principles, acts as a positive example, both within our own and our extended community.

(from OLCHS Mission Statement)

Reviewed: Spring Term 2020

Review Date: Autumn Term 2022

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Introduction:

Through the core and foundation subjects of the National Curriculum, young people at OLCHS are introduced to four artform areas: literature; performing arts; visual arts, craft and design; media and multimedia.

Individual disciplines include:

Drama - forming, presenting, responding;

Dance - choreographing, performing, appreciating;

Media - constructing media, producing meaning, responding to meanings;

Music - performing, composing, listening and appraising;

Visual arts - exploring and developing ideas, investigating and making, evaluating and developing pupils' own work.

There are many different artforms within each of these categories, and often these are brought together through new forms of creative expression. For example, within the performing arts dance, drama and music combine with the visual arts through set design, costume and lighting to make music theatre and opera. Sometimes, artforms cannot be confined within one broad category. Popular music merges the boundaries between the performing arts and media and multimedia. Drama is part of literature through script writing for theatre, film, TV and radio, and is also one of the performing arts. Our learning platform 'Moodle' and 'Mahara' allows for an additional means of expressing creativity through the enhanced use of IT.

Expressive Arts consists of Drama, Art and Music

The Art, Drama Dance and Music departments within Our Lady's Catholic High School offer a creative, enjoyable and varied learning experience. Our arts provision extends into P.E. (dance), Media and English (digital imaging/ film/ drama/ performance/ creative writing). We aim to promote creativity and enrich the experience of students through the arts, devising work of a practical nature encouraging them to incorporate their own ideas, thoughts and experiences. We guarantee pupils at OLCHS an entitlement. Broadly pupils experience the arts

- through classroom teaching, linked to the National Curriculum
- from experiences linked to the whole school curriculum
- through pupils' own interests, including activities which are part of study support

Each department runs courses at KS3 fulfilling National Curriculum requirements and delivers GCSE courses at KS4. We offer extensive out of hours provision for all pupils via clubs, shows and competitions.

The content and quality of the work taking place in expressive arts departments is underpinned by actively encouraging students to take part in a wide range of extra curricular activities. This can mean being involved in lunchtime, after school clubs and weekends, school productions, expressive arts week, extended learning days, faith based activities (e.g. whole school mass, faith and justice days) and performance evenings. These occur both within school as well as the wider community throughout the year and to an exceptionally high standard. To support this, weekly extra-curricular clubs and tuition are offered to all pupils. These will range from art, dance, drama, music, digital imaging (photography, film and photoshop). In addition students are encouraged to participate in school-based, local and national competitions and be inspired and supported where appropriate by workshops with authors, performers, artists and musicians as well as theatre trips and gallery visits.

All creative and expressive arts staff are fully qualified and experienced practitioners in their chosen field and employ high standards of skill coupled with significant theoretical knowledge.

"Since every child is born with the power to create, that power should be released early and developed wisely. It may become the key to joy and wisdom, and possibly to self-realization. ." (Cane, Florance)

Our aims for Expressive Arts Departments in our school are to:

The core aims of a school arts policy could include:

1) To ensure all children and young people experience the richness of a broad arts curriculum. Provide an entitlement for all pupils to access high ranging quality arts experiences regardless of age, race, sex or ability.

2) To provide every child and young person with opportunity to be inspired by the arts and achieve success through the arts.

A strategic and co-ordinated approach to arts education, including arts partnerships, which meet the needs of the school. To evaluate and set targets for the arts via the Curriculum Self Evaluation forms that are completed yearly. This document should rigourously monitor, review, compare against other subjects and similar schools to set challenging and effective targets. To ensure that social, spiritual, cultural and moral issues are encouraged and developed within the departments. Students can learn about diverse cultures within our departments. Develop an understanding and engagement with the creative and expressive arts, allowing all individuals regardless of gender, race, disability, age, social class, sexuality, religion, ability or circumstances to explore and express their own creativity and further develop confidence and self-esteem through the wide-ranging activities on offer.

"..... develops spiritual values and contributes a wider understanding to the experiences of life, which help build a balanced personality" – Bridget Riley.

3) To strengthen partnerships and build new partnerships which make the arts sustainable and bring benefit to children, young people and the wider community.

Making the best use of resources (people and partnerships) inside and outside school. Making links with the community, which promote, strengthen and broaden arts provision in school, encouraging their involvement.

4) To nurture artistic talent and develop children's young people's transferable life skills that arise from successful arts education, including the creative use of imagination and considered risk taking, co-operation, tenacity, flexibility and responsibility as well as leadership and entrepreneurial skills.

Fully embracing and encourage inclusion for all within the curriculum and in the out of hours activities offered. Raising standards and celebrating achievement within the Expressive Arts.

All of the above are underpinned and supported by the school Core Principles. Everyone at Our Lady's:

- Will be given the opportunity to develop their faith in a supportive context.

Everyone at Our Lady's has the right to:

- Work and learn to the best of our abilities
- Be treated with respect at all times
- Feel safe

Alongside this, the rewards system at OLCBS (*Being one of Ours*) promotes involvement, participation and leadership within the arts.

Objectives:

1) To ensure all children and young people experience the richness of a broad arts curriculum

Students will have a minimum of 12% at KS3 dedicated to arts subjects. Pupils at KS4 will have at least 4 out of the following subjects offered to them at GCSE level from the following : Art, Music, Drama, Media, Graphics and Textiles. Pupils at Key stage 3 and Key stage 4 (regardless of whether they have opted for and arts subject) are provided with opportunities within the curriculum and outside the curriculum and are encouraged to participate fully. Pupils have access to a wide variety of experiences (across the following artforms: art, drama, music, film, creative writing, photography) within creative and expressive arts regardless of age, race, sex or ability – *equal opportunity for all*.

2) To provide every child and young person with opportunity to be inspired by the arts and achieve success through the arts. Students will be given

opportunities at both key stages to experience and celebrate arts within their own environment and through work of other cultures, times and beliefs. To give students the opportunity to exhibit their work and be involved in performances throughout the year – both within the school environment and outside in the wider community. This should happen across both key stages and be offered to all at least once a year. Curriculum areas will provide workshops for extended learning days which allow pupils to produce innovative arts work so that they can express their ideas using a wide variety of media and technology. Curriculum areas will rigorously monitor, review, compare against other subjects and similar schools to set challenging and effective targets. Staff will be specialists and have relevant professional opportunities for staff provided for them so that they will be able to demonstrate continuing professional development and inspire others. For the expressive arts group to meet regularly, monitoring the progress and success of the activities offered. To review the policy every three years and provide an update to the governing body to verify.

- 3) **To strengthen partnerships and build new partnerships which make the arts sustainable and bring benefit to children, young people and the wider community.** Curriculum areas will establish and sustain partnerships with professional arts organisations. Curriculum areas will provide links and workshops for other educational institutions so that OLCCHS pupils will be learners and leaders regularly throughout each key stage. There will be opportunities every term for the wider community to have access to our school's art programme through performances, workshops, exhibitions and via Moodle links.

- 4) **To nurture artistic talent and develop children's young people's transferable life skills that arise from successful arts education, including the creative use of imagination and considered risk taking, co-operation, tenacity, flexibility and responsibility as well as leadership and entrepreneurial skills.** The arts will systematically apply all previous objectives. Provide opportunities for all students to pursue out of hours activities. To provide pupils with opportunity to create, develop and market arts events. To ensure opportunities for students to work with practising performers and artists and that they are kept informed of employment opportunities in the arts.

Evaluation:

If this policy is successful, the following outcomes should occur:

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing numbers of pupils involved in out of hours activities • A sustained number of pupils opting for Arts subjects at GCSE • Improving or sustained excellent exam results • Offering opportunities for work with partnership organisations and other professionals. • Giving opportunities for pupils to exhibit their work/performances within school and in the wider community. • Access to the arts programme for the wider community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More pupils involved in expressive arts week, school production and clubs (evidence through work produced). • More clubs offered to pupils to include art, dance, drama, music, film, photography and creative writing. <i>Pupils to have access to at least 15 different out of hours activities.</i> • Numbers on option lists increasing - (see KS4 GCSE results 2009, 2009, 2010, 2011 lists or take up figures for arts subjects KS4 – part 1 of Artsmark application form for evidence) • See data for results at KS4 A*-C's • Visits offered to pupils as well as visiting artists, musicians, authors and performers being brought into school. • Pupils to be aware of employment opportunities and routes of study for continuing education within the arts. • Look at Moodle our VLE for visual evidence and newsletter information. • Pupils exhibiting and performing work within school and at other institutions. E.G. GCSE Art exhibitions, GCSE Music and Drama evenings, Variety Shows, performances and exhibitions in local theatres, national competitions and galleries. • Pupils leading workshops to our community of local primary schools in Arts related activities. Developing skills in leadership co-operation and responsibility. • Build upon the excellent reputation for quality arts programmes that we already have.