

Art and Design Statement of Intent

At Nishkam High School, the Art and Design department aims to create the very best Artists, Designers and Photographers. We challenge students to think, act and speak like those working in the field would. We do this by teaching students to become visually literate, so they can read, interpret and find meaning in signs, symbols, codes and conventions, exploring and re-shaping them in their own work. We provide students first-hand experience of all three areas of Art, Craft and Design. Purposeful exploration, making and doing, foster artistic and design awareness, understanding and skills. Students are given the opportunity to engage with practitioners and examples of historical art and design from a range of cultural contexts. We provide learning contexts that promote the understanding of the creative design industries, skills for future learning and their role in the economy and how they can lead to exciting career opportunities.

Our faith-inspired and virtues-led ethos is at the heart of the Art and Design curriculum, which is designed in a way that will enable all students to explore the visual arts with enthusiasm and curiosity. Our curriculum allows pupils to understand the variety of artistic fields in the modern day, at a local and global level. This is inclusive of pupils of all cultures, faiths, disadvantage and SEND needs.

Through a variety of short, half-termly based projects, designed to enable pupils to explore a variety of disciplines, providing an enriched experience in which students work with the broadest range of materials and contexts. Working with different materials, processes, tools and technologies sparks pupils' curiosity, provides intrinsic motivation, pride in their work and their developing skills. We strive for academic excellence whereby pupils receive a knowledge rich curriculum and increased cultural capital. There are many opportunities for students to attend trips to galleries, museums and other arts venues and encourage reading to allow pupils to access the full curriculum offer.

As a department, we define the powerful knowledge our students need and help them recall it by scaffolding our curriculum in such a way that students continually revisit skills and build upon them each year, tackling increasingly challenging concepts. As each step in a learning journey develops, it incorporates a deeper understanding of prior learning. Student progress is documented through sketchbooks and journals along with checklists for key concepts and ideas. We encourage conversation, discussion, critique and debate about pupils' own work and about the work of artists and designers. This embeds and extends our students' knowledge of artistic concepts and principles along with the appropriate language for discussing works of art. When teaching design principles students are expected to think, respond and create as a professional would.