

Wingate Primary School

Art & Design Marking and Sketchbook Policy

Rationale

At Wingate Primary School, Art & Design is a creative, expressive, and exploratory subject. We believe that children should feel free to take risks, develop their own ideas, and build artistic confidence without fear of judgement.

Our approach prioritises skills development, creativity, and personal expression over written feedback or formal marking.

This policy aligns with the principles of the UNICEF (UNCRC), ensuring that every child's voice, creativity, and individuality are respected and valued.

Key Principles

1. No Formal Marking

There is no written marking in Art & Design books or on final pieces.

Staff should not annotate artwork or mark it in any way.

Feedback is verbal, immediate, and constructive.

2. Skills-Based Learning

Lessons focus on the development of core artistic skills, including:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Sculpture
- Printing

Teachers' model techniques and guide practice through demonstration and discussion. Progress is measured through observed improvement in skills, not written outcomes.

3. Sketchbooks as Creative Journals

Sketchbooks are personal, experimental spaces for:

- Practising techniques
- Exploring ideas
- Making mistakes and refining work

There is no requirement for dates or titles in sketchbooks.

Children are encouraged to use sketchbooks freely without fear of "getting it wrong."

4. Final Pieces

Final artwork should:

- Reflect the child's individual interpretation
- Showcase learned skills

There is no requirement for dates or titles on final pieces.

5. Feedback and Reflection

Feedback is:

- Verbal
- Positive and developmental
- Focused on skills and process
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Children are encouraged to:

- Reflect verbally on their work
- Discuss techniques and choices
- Share ideas with peers

This policy supports the following rights:

Article 12 – Respect for the views of the child

Children are encouraged to express their ideas and make creative choices in their artwork.

Article 13 – Freedom of expression

Pupils can explore and communicate thoughts, feelings, and ideas through art without restriction.

Article 29 – Goals of education

Art & Design promotes the development of creativity, confidence, and individual talents.

Article 31 – Leisure, play and culture

Children have the right to participate in creative and cultural activities, including art.

Inclusion and Equity

- All pupils are supported to access Art & Design regardless of ability.
- Teaching is adaptive and inclusive.
- Success is defined individually, recognising each child's starting point and progress.

Monitoring and Assessment

Assessment is informal and ongoing, based on:

- Teacher observation
- Pupil discussion
- Development of skills over time

Evidence of progress is seen through:

- Sketchbook exploration
- Improved control of materials
- Increasing independence and creativity
- Celebration of Work (Arts Week in the Summer Term)

Artwork is celebrated through:

- Displays around the school
- Class discussions and sharing
- Opportunities to showcase creativity (Arts Week in the Summer Term)