

## ***Developing the Art Club Offer***

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### **Statement of Focus**

As the art co-ordinator in a primary school, I fully embed the importance of developing all aspects of the art we offer to all children and I believed it was the right time to engage children in art extracurricular activities. After COVID- 19, our school had lost the sense and importance of offering after school curricular clubs and I wanted the children to feel part of a group, having a sense of belonging. Therefore, in September 2022, I felt it was the right time to develop our students' skills further, and created a vision to develop the art club offer in school.

### **The Development Process**

Once the idea was formed to offer an extracurricular club to all children in school at different times throughout the year, I began networking with staff in school as well as staff in the feeder high school. I worked very closely with the teacher who I was training up to be the new art co-ordinator. Together, we identified gaps in our curriculum and investigated ways to further develop this. To support the Year 6 children, I networked with the art lead at the high school and explored 'sculpture' art. I resonated with the importance of ensuring all children regardless of backgrounds or experiences should enjoy and participate in cultural life and ensured the art club offer was available to all children and young people. Art club was not restricted to those children whose families already participate in cultural activities. All children and young people no matter what their background or family circumstances were given the opportunity to develop their creativity, their relationship with society and to contribute to the economy in ways that are beneficial to them as individuals and to society.

The take up of Year 6 art club was phenomenal and children from a wide range of life experiences expressed an interest in join art club. Which was a very positive response and something that made me feel proud about.

Networking proved to be crucial in the process of planning the activities as it allowed myself to extend our knowledge and ideas beyond what I had expected. Once we had a bank of ideas, the children planned their art club experience and it was entirely ownership of the children. We explored our local and wider culture and decided to focus on 'The Kings Coronation' whilst exploring sculptural landmarks in London. This gave the children an insight into the way of life in London and for some children, this was possibly the first time in learning about famous landmarks in London.

As the children worked, we further developed the Year 6 art club and planned for the children to apply to become an art lead within school, to support and plan for the delivery of future art clubs. This proved to be an excellent development as again it engaged the children in taking ownership of their own learning and gave the children the opportunity to apply and vote for their chosen art leader.



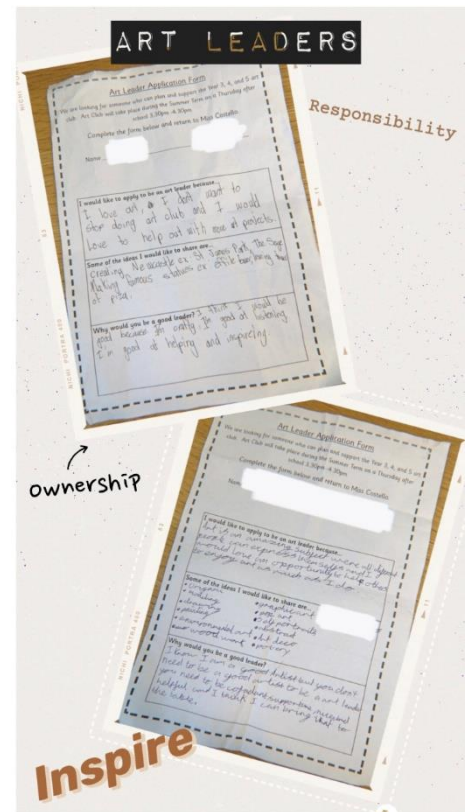
## Challenges

Along with every new and exciting offer comes challenges and I believe in our project time was a particular challenge. We overcome this challenge with offering the children the opportunity to attend at lunchtimes. This was optional but amazingly a very good uptake. The children really demonstrated a real Yes I Can attitude which is our school motto.

## Evidence of Impact

The amount of art club leader application forms was incredible and expressed the impact of the art club. Children expressed their reasons why they wanted to be an art leader and it became very clear that the children had been inspired by the content in the club.

This offer was very low cost, having the majority of resources in school, which worked very well and allowed the children to fully engage with minimal challenges was very rewarding. It was lovely to see the children find creating the artwork so relaxing and calm. Some of the children worked in teams and it was great to see and hear the collaboration between the teams during the planning and making process.



## Children's Work



## Next steps

The art leaders will work with the new group of children who want to attend art club. The art club leaders will plan for the next four-week cycle and will then train up the next group of art leaders. This is an exciting opportunity which provides the oldest children in our school a sense of responsibility. In addition to this, this is something that will develop their confidence and self-esteem.