

# Ruislip High School Whole School Arts Policy



## **A Definition of the Arts at Ruislip High School**

At Ruislip High School we designate Music, Dance, Drama and Art and Design as Arts subjects. All students are timetabled to study all of these subjects at key stage 3 and presently the Arts are an options choice at key stage 4.

The Arts are also taught in cross curricular ways; for example we run a year 8 Integrated Arts project which includes all pupils in the year group rehearsing, planning and performing a musical production. An annual Arts evening is also held to celebrate the artwork of our pupils.

We ensure our pupils not only have the opportunity to learn about and achieve in each of these areas but we endeavour to provide them with a variety of performing platforms from which to be imaginative, creative, express themselves, and share success and experiences.

We endeavour to work closely with outside organisations and partnerships in order to optimise the talents within our local community to enable our students to reach their full potential.

## Mission Statement

At Ruislip High School we strive to provide all students with a wide range of high quality Arts experiences giving both breadth and balance to their education. We ensure **everyone** of whatever ability or social, cultural background has the opportunity to grow and explore through personalised learning paths and high quality, differentiated teaching.

The School believes that the Arts play an important role in the development of each child and believe that it strengthens students' ability to analyse, question and communicate ideas and that it enhances self confidence. Students are given the opportunity to build upon their skills in order to make positive lifestyle choices, both in leisure pursuits and as an informed consideration for future career possibilities.

We are passionate about extending our pupils' experience of the Arts far beyond the classroom and we enrich our children's learning and experiences of the Arts through a range of specialist activities. We are also committed to providing opportunities for our pupils to perform at a range of events in school and in the wider community.

We consider that success in academic subjects and the positive school ethos is enhanced by the provision in the Arts. It is a firmly held belief that the involvement of all pupils in activities such as Drama, which harbours the skills of a kinaesthetic learning tool, and learning a musical instrument, has a positive effect on other areas of the curriculum, pupil behaviour and attitude to school.

All pupils are able to present their ideas to their peers and wider school community to showcase their talents and achievements. This encompasses not only gifted and talented students but also encourages those who have been inspired by such events that have taken place within the school.

## **Key Aims**

- For **all** children to engage and enjoy the Arts and continue this interest throughout life.
- To provide a structured and cohesive approach to Arts education.
- To develop pupils' ability to create, appreciate, explore attitudes, feelings and make critical judgements about art works.
- To encourage pupils to work as individuals and collaboratively to share experiences and present artworks to others.
- To promote achievement in the Arts and to celebrate success.
- To develop an understanding of the role of the Arts in our community, society and of different cultures.

### **In pursuance of these aims we provide all young people with:**

- A varied and high quality Arts curriculum with opportunities to learn about the Arts of diverse cultures
- Staff who are passionate about the Arts, and have access to regular continued professional development that refreshes their own creativity.
- A programme of extended day activities and extra curricular clubs.
- Appropriate courses in the Arts at GCSE and in the future sixth form.
- The opportunities for cross curricular projects
- Opportunities to observe, plan, design, lead, complete and perform/exhibit in a range of art forms.
- An opportunity to work alongside and observe professionals.

# **The Curriculum**

## **Key Stage 3**

All students have a one-hour lesson per week in art, music and drama. Dance is taught through PE.

There are key projects which are cross curricular based and enrich our students' experience, for example our Year 8 Integrated Arts project, whole school cross curricular week, and workshops and events run by professionals.

## **Key Stage 4**

This is our first year of option choices. GCSE students may take up to three Arts options.

## **ICT**

ICT plays a vital role in our Arts curriculum in the areas of animation, lighting and sound control, video, music software such as 'O' Generator' and 'Dance EJay', and use of the virtual learning environment. In Art students also use Adobe Photoshop Elements and Moviemaker.

## **Extended Curriculum**

Students are offered opportunities to attend a variety of theatre visits.

Professional Artists are invited to teach during whole school enrichment days.

Scholarships are available to RHS students to attend the Italia Conti stage school based at RHS on a Wednesday and Saturday.

We also have a varied and vibrant extra-curricular programme:

## **Music**

All students are given the opportunity to learn an instrument. Specialist peripatetic tutors teach these lessons. We also run the following clubs; Rock School, Choir, Orchestra and Wind band

## **Drama**

There is a drama club for each year group at key stage 3 held on a weekly basis. Performance showcases during Arts Evening, the Christmas Performance and the Integrated Arts Project have intensive rehearsal periods prior to each project – this occurs each term. There are also links to Italia Conti Stage School, which offer a range of classes in dance, drama and musical theatre.

## **Art**

Art club is open to all students on a weekly basis.

## **Dance**

A specialist tutor teaches a Cheerleading club. Italia Conti stage school, offers a range of dance including, street, break-dance, ballet, tap and musical theatre.

## **Performance Opportunities**

It is imperative that pupils are given the chance to perform their work to an audience and we organise regular events, which allow students to celebrate their achievements through the following:

- Christmas Concerts
- Pop Concert
- Arts Evening
- Celebration Assemblies
- Performances in the community
- Integrated Arts Musical Production
- Showcasing animations on the web
- Pod casts of pupils work.

## Assessment for Learning

Assessment in the Arts is an integral part of planning, teaching, learning and progress

### The Importance of Assessment

- To monitor progress
- To stretch and support students
- To give pupils feedback to improve their skills.
- To inform future planning
- To inform parents
- To provide a record for other teachers, the Head teacher, Governors and ultimately employers.
- To build motivation and self-esteem and to celebrate success.

### Methods of Assessment

**Formative Assessment:** To aid preparation and planning.

**Summative Assessment.** At the end of each half term project work is formally assessed to specific criteria.

**Self Assessment.** To help students set future targets for their success.

**Peer and Group Assessment.** This enables students to evaluate the work of others.

At KS3 students have access to “Student Friendly” levels. For example levels are printed on the back of self evaluation sheets in drama and displayed in classroom.

## **Staffing**

The faculty has a curriculum leader for PE, Drama, Art and Music.

All teachers are specialists in their areas. It is also recognised that regular INSET is imperative to the personal development of all Arts staff and this is identified through individual professional development reviews.

For example, individual staff moderate at internal and external centres. Staff team-teach wherever possible so that skills can be shared. Staff also attend and deliver INSET when appropriate.

## **Equal Opportunities**

The Arts aim to ensure that all pupils are regarded as being equal. We demonstrate this in the following ways:

- Reflect positive images of all races, cultures and creeds
- Draw on and celebrate diversity within the school and community to widen the cultural awareness of students.
- Provide equality of gender.
- Challenge and support all pupils.
- All pupils are encouraged to work within mixed gender and ability groups throughout the Arts subjects.

## **Resources, Facilities and Equipment**

We have the following facilities:

- Music room, storage area and 5 purpose built practice rooms.
- Two Art rooms.
- Drama Studio with ground and balcony seating, lighting, sound and projection facilities. Square lighting rig, which offers a versatile performance space. Blackout drapes, portable audio system with Microphone (body and hand held) and mixing facilities. Drama storage area.
- Sports hall
- Main hall with raked seating, lighting, sound and projection facility.
- Outside partner organisations.

## Future plans

- We are currently resourcing a specialist media room with recording and ICT equipment.
- As the school grows we will extend the range of courses on offer to our key stage 4 students.
- As our pupils' skills improve further they will expand their experience by taking on the role of facilitator to our younger students.
- Whole school production.
- At key stage 4 and post 16 provide specialist advice on careers in the Arts and creative industries.
- For Arts staff to deliver whole school INSET to raise achievement, and to equip all staff with a wider set of skills to deliver lessons.
- To review our policy on a yearly basis by the whole team.

Policy	Arts Policy
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