

The Arts Policy

Rationale

St. Elizabeth's Parish School's Arts curriculum provides the opportunity for children to develop their creative talents, imagination and self-expression.

Through the Arts, children will explore, participate in, and develop, skills using the various art forms. The teaching of the Arts exposes the students to a variety of art disciplines and provides the opportunity to develop appreciation and offer a response to art works.

The arts are practised and valued in our complex and diverse society as important outlets for the communication of ideas, feelings and beliefs and as major sources of intellectual, physical, spiritual and emotional development, understanding and enjoyment. Comprehensive and sequential learning experiences in the arts during schooling provide individuals with necessary skills, understandings and confidence to participate fully in the arts throughout their lives.

Aims

Through the arts program students:

- Develop their intellectual, imaginative and expressive potential.
- Develop skills, techniques and knowledge of processes as a basis for personal expression.
- Create, perform or present arts works.
- Develop critical skills and an understanding of aesthetics.
- Develop understanding of how the arts evolve within social, cultural and historical contexts.
- Enjoy participating in the processes of creating, presenting and responding to the arts.

Guidelines

In the planning and teaching of Performing Arts we will:

- Highlight the unique ways of seeing, thinking and knowing about ourselves and the world and expressing a response to this.
- Enable students, both as individuals and in groups to explore, shape and represent ideas and feelings and their consequences.
- Provide experiences in listening, singing, playing, creating and reading as appropriate to the development of the student.
- Study fundamental music skills in a practical way, using a variety of instruments.
- Design activities that are student centred and value the difference in perception, insight, knowledge, needs and capabilities of each student.
- Integrate Performing Arts in all learning areas where appropriate.
- Provide opportunities to appreciate the artistic expressions of other people
- Explore how Performing Arts contributes to the development of aesthetic awareness and perception.

In the planning and teaching of Visual Arts we will:

- Promote confidence and develop skills in using a variety of materials and equipment to create two and three dimensional work.
- Enable students both as individuals, and in groups, to explore the elements of Visual Arts.

Guidelines [continued]

- Integrate Visual Arts in all learning areas where appropriate.
- Foster positive attitudes towards Arts related activities and the role of Art in society and history.
- Expose students at all levels to various Art forms created by students and known artists.
- Develop tolerance and a sensitive appreciation of the work of others and its cultural significance and importance.

Implementation

Performing Arts

- A variety of methodology is used e.g. mime, improvisation, role-play and puppetry.
- Students make, create and re-create drama through improvisation, role-play, characterisation and interpretation of texts.
- Students improvise, compose and manipulate dance elements.
- Dramatic works will be planned, rehearsed and presented.
- Students will be given the opportunity to reflect on their own drama and the dramatic works of others.
- Each level will receive lessons which incorporate singing, listening, instrumental and movement activities which are designed to develop skills related to the various elements in music, namely rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, tone, colour, texture, form and style.
- A variety of resources will be used in Performing Arts.
- Regular singing practice will be undertaken for liturgies, assemblies and other special occasions.
- Each class is timetabled to present to the school community at least 4 assemblies per year incorporating skills developed through the Arts program.
- A school concert will be presented to the school community every 2nd year.

Visual Arts

- The Art program will cover areas such as painting, drawing, construction, modelling, printing, threads and textiles and Art appreciation. Activities in each area are to be sequential. There is to be a balance of structured, formal skills-acquisition sessions and sessions where a choice in activities is offered.
- The correct and safe use of various tools will be taught during their related unit.
- Selection of suitable equipment will be the responsibility of the Arts Co-ordinator.
- Media elements will be integrated where possible in the Visual Arts and other curriculum programs.
- Students' work will be displayed in a variety of forums and formats as a presentation of the learning being undertaken in the classroom.
- A Visual Arts show will be presented to the school community every 2nd year.