Art Curriculum Overview

Years 1-6 progression map

Year 1	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Skill	Exploring portraiture through drawing and painting. Developing observational drawing skills and experimenting with line, colour and texture to create self-portraits.	Exploring colour and contrast in portraiture. Selecting bold and soft colours to make particular features stand out and create different effects.	Exploring painting techniques and colour mixing. Developing an understanding of composition and how to represent people, buildings and everyday activities within a landscape. Experimenting with dabbing, stippling and blending to create different textures and effects.	Developing painting skills through experimentation with watercolours, colour mixing and brushstrokes. Exploring how different amounts of water affect colour, tone and transparency. Using short, visible brushstrokes to create texture, movement and the impression of light.	Developing watercolour painting techniques, including wet-on-wet painting, washes and colour blending. Exploring how brushstrokes, colour and water can represent waves, reflections and movement in the sea.	Experimenting with colour mixing and a range of painting tools to create different textures and effects. Developing control when applying paint using sponges, cotton buds, fingers and palette knives. Exploring how colour, texture and swirling marks can communicate movement, weather and mood.
Focus	Explore family portraits and how artists represent people, comparing traditional and modern portraits. Investigate how Rembrandt used light and shadow to create realistic faces, while Henri Matisse used bold colours, patterns and different viewpoints. Apply these ideas to create individual self-portraits, using line, colour and texture to communicate something about themselves.	Explore Thomas Gainsborough's portraits, focusing on The Blue Boy. Investigate how he used bold blue clothing against a softer background to make the figure stand out. Compare colours in different portraits and create an individual portrait inspired by Gainsborough, experimenting with bold and soft colours to create contrast.	Explore genre painting and how artists capture scenes of everyday life. Investigate L.S. Lowry's industrial paintings, identifying his use of matchstick figures, factories, buildings and groups of people to represent busy town life. Experiment with mixing primary colours to create earthy tones and use different painting techniques to add texture. Create an original industrial landscape inspired by Lowry, considering the arrangement of people and buildings within the scene.	Explore Claude Monet's Impressionist paintings, including The Houses of Parliament, Water Lilies and Impression, Sunrise. Investigate how Monet used colour, light and quick brushstrokes to capture the impression of a place rather than every detail. Experiment with watercolours, mixing colours and creating different tones and gradients by adding water. Apply these techniques to create an imaginative landmark or landscape painting inspired by Monet.	Explore Ivan Aivazovsky's seascapes, identifying how he used colour, light and movement to capture the sea in different conditions. Investigate the features of a seascape, including the horizon, waves and reflections. Experiment with watercolour techniques to create different effects, then produce an original seaside painting inspired by Aivazovsky. Use colour choices and brushstrokes to communicate the mood and movement of the sea.	Explore J.M.W. Turner's paintings, including Snow Storm – Steam-Boat off a Harbour's Mouth, The Fighting Temeraire and Rain, Steam, and Speed. Investigate how Turner used swirling colours, loose brushstrokes and less traditional tools to represent the power of nature, movement and dramatic weather. Experiment with mixing primary colours, black and white to create new colours and tones. Use a variety of tools to create textures representing rain, wind, clouds and storms. Apply these techniques to produce a collaborative, expressive weather painting inspired by Turner, explaining how their choices create particular effects and moods.
Significant People	Rembrandt; Henri Matisse	Thomas Gainsborough	L.S. Lowry; Pieter Brueghel	Claude Monet; Édouard Manet; Edgar Degas	Ivan Aivazovsky; J.M.W. Turner; Katsushika Hokusai	J.M.W. Turner

Vocabulary	Portrait, self-portrait, artist, expression, chiaroscuro, line, texture, viewpoint, vivid	Contrast, bold, soft, vibrant, background, foreground, portrait, composition, mood	Genre painting, everyday life, industrial, urban, landscape, composition, matchstick figures, earthy tones, colour mixing, texture, stippling	Impressionism, impression, brushstroke, watercolour, transparency, wash, gradient, light, tone, blending	Seascape, horizon, waves, reflection, wet-on-wet, wash, brushstroke, gradient, primary colours, secondary colours, complementary colours	Texture, expressive, movement, mood, storm, palette knife, swirling, tone, landscape, compare
Year 2	**Autumn 1**	**Autumn 2**	**Spring 1**	**Spring 2**	**Summer 1**	**Summer 2**
Skill	Observational drawing and painting; exploring colour, foreground and background, and depicting people and activities within a landscape. Pop Art, repeated imagery, bold colour choices and pattern-making; experimenting with painting, drawing and print-inspired techniques.	Observational drawing and portrait painting; exploring facial expression, light and shadow, colour blending and brushstrokes. Landscape drawing and painting; exploring colour, shape, blending and the use of imaginative elements to create mood and atmosphere.	Observational drawing and painting; exploring landscape composition, colour, tone and texture. Experimenting with charcoal, blending and different tools to create marks and effects. Exploring expressive drawing and mark-making; using bold outlines, curved lines, unusual shapes and patterns to create imaginative landscapes.	Observational drawing; exploring shape, line and texture to represent natural features. Using sketchbooks to record visual ideas and experiment with different drawing tools. Digital photography; developing skills in framing, selecting viewpoints, focusing and cropping images. Selecting important features and evaluating photographs.	Observational drawing and sculpture; developing an understanding of 3D form, shape and texture. Translating a 2D sketch into a 3D carving using modelling and carving techniques.	Observational drawing and still-life art; developing close observation of natural forms, shape, colour and detail. Experimenting with oil pastels, blending, layering and colour mixing to represent texture and tone.
Focus	Explore Hendrick Avercamp's winter landscapes, identifying how he used colour, composition and figures to depict winter activities and community life. Create an original winter scene inspired by his artwork, considering the arrangement of the landscape and the people within it. Explore Andy Warhol's Pop Art, identifying how he transformed everyday objects and famous people through bold colours and repeated images. Experiment with repetition, patterns and contrasting colours to create an individual Pop Art composition inspired by Warhol.	Explore John Singer Sargent's portraits, identifying how he used light, shadow, facial expressions and brushstrokes to capture the character and emotions of his subjects. Create portraits inspired by his work, experimenting with colour blending and layering to add depth and detail. Explore Paul Nash's landscape paintings, identifying how he used colour, shapes and imaginative details to create unusual and atmospheric scenes. Create an original landscape inspired by his work, experimenting with watercolours and blending to communicate a particular mood.	Explore John Constable's realistic countryside paintings, identifying how he used careful observation, natural colours, light and shadow to capture the beauty of the English countryside. Study The Hay Wain and create an original landscape inspired by the River Stour, experimenting with charcoal, paint, blending and texture to represent weather, water and the natural environment. Explore Friedensreich Hundertwasser's imaginative landscapes, identifying how he used bright colours, wavy lines, unusual shapes and patterns to represent the natural world. Compare his expressive approach with Constable's realistic style and create drawings inspired by his distinctive use of line and shape.	Explore images of the Antarctic, identifying its distinctive landscape features, shapes and textures. Use observational drawing to record icebergs, snowy landscapes and other features, experimenting with line and shading to communicate the cold and icy environment. Explore photography as a way of recording and communicating what is important about a place. Take photographs around Charville, experimenting with angles, framing and orientation. Select and evaluate the most effective images, considering how the photographer's choices influence what the viewer notices.	Explore the 13,000-year-old Swimming Reindeer sculpture, examining how a prehistoric artist used the natural shape of a mammoth tusk to capture the movement and details of two reindeer. Investigate how early humans observed and represented animals, then sketch and create an original reindeer sculpture using carving techniques. Experiment with shaping, cutting and adding engraved lines and textures to develop form and detail.	Explore the flower paintings of Rachel Ruysch and Georgia O'Keeffe, comparing their contrasting approaches to representing nature. Identify how Ruysch used fine detail and realistic arrangements, while O'Keeffe used enlarged forms, bold colours and simplified shapes. Apply these ideas through close observational drawing of flowers and fruit, experimenting with oil pastels, blending, layering and colour variation to capture natural details and textures.
Significant People	Hendrick Avercamp, Andy Warhol; Roy Lichtenstein	John Singer Sargent Paul Nash	John Constable, Friedensreich Hundertwasser	Herbert George Ponting, Margaret Wise Brown	Unknown Magdalenian artist; Abbé Henri Breuil	Rachel Ruysch; Georgia O'Keeffe

Vocabulary	Landscape, foreground, background, composition, movement, atmosphere, watercolour, blending Pop Art, repetition, vibrant, contrast, portrait, pattern, screen printing, mass production	Portrait, expression, brushstroke, texture, highlight, shadow, blending, realistic Landscape, imaginary, colour palette, mood, atmosphere, shape, layering, interpretation	Observation, rural, foreground, middle ground, background, charcoal, highlight, shadow, texture Expressive, abstract, curved line, outline, wavy, pattern, shape, vibrant	Antarctic, expedition, iceberg, observation, texture, shading, mark-making, atmosphere Photography, photographer, photograph, digital, focus, angle, framing, portrait, landscape, crop	Sculpture, carving, 3D, form, mammoth tusk, prehistoric, shape, engraving, texture, detail	Still life, observational drawing, realistic, enlarged, abstract, oil pastel, layering, blending, tone, highlight, shade
Year 3	**Autumn 1**	**Autumn 2**	**Spring 1**	**Spring 2**	**Summer 1**	**Summer 2**
Skill	Observational drawing, tonal shading and textural mark-making, observational portraiture, facial proportions and feature placement	Continuous line, contour drawing and tonal techniques	Figurative representation, movement and decorative pattern	Botanical drawing, paint application and spatial depth	Geometric abstraction, overlapping and colour relationships	Graphic illustration, stylisation and repeated imagery
Focus	Developing portrait drawing skills by observing and positioning facial features accurately, exploring proportion and adding details to create a recognizable portrait of Mary Anning.	Representing three-dimensional objects using continuous lines, contour and directional shading.	Communicating historical events through simplified figures, repeated motifs and narrative compositions.	Creating layered jungle landscapes through botanical observation, colour mixing and varied brush techniques.	Exploring abstract compositions through geometric forms, overlapping shapes and contrasting colour schemes.	Creating bold Pop Art compositions through simplified imagery, repeated designs and controlled application of flat colour.
Significant People	Mary Anning	Leonardo da Vinci	Anonymous makers of the Bayeux Tapestry	Henri Rousseau	Hurvin Anderson	Lobo / Pop Art artists
Vocabulary	Portraiture, facial symmetry, alignment, proportions, eye line, facial features, likeness, tonal variation	Continuous line, contour, cross-hatching, light source, highlight, cast shadow, still life	Motif, frieze, decorative border, narrative sequence, restricted palette, symbolism	Botanical, pigment, wash, dry-brush, foreground, background, focal point	Geometric abstraction, juxtaposition, complementary, contrasting, spatial depth, visual balance	Stylisation, graphic, saturation, hard-edged, repetition, flat colour, visual impact
Year 4	**Autumn 1**	**Autumn 2**	**Spring 1**	**Spring 2**	**Summer 1**	**Summer 2**
Skill	Portraiture, facial construction and fabric representation	Impressionist painting, optical colour mixing and directional brushwork	Architectural drawing, linear perspective and structural design	Classical architecture, still-life arrangement and bilateral symmetry	Creature illustration, cultural design and decorative composition	Expressive mark-making, surface manipulation and mixed-media construction
Focus	Developing accurate portraits through facial positioning, individual features, three-dimensional modelling and detailed Elizabethan costume.	Exploring how Impressionist artists use visible brushwork, broken colour and warm and cool tones to capture light, atmosphere and reflections.	Understanding how geometric structures can be transformed into innovative architectural designs using perspective, curved forms and sustainable design principles.	Exploring classical architecture and still-life drawing through accurate observation, symmetrical structures, repeated architectural details and tonal development.	Designing imaginative mythical creatures by combining animal characteristics, manipulating proportions and incorporating influences from different cultural art traditions.	Exploring how artists communicate movement, atmosphere and meaning through expressive marks, textured surfaces, repeated forms and combinations of materials.
Significant People	Elizabeth I	Claude Monet / Pierre-Auguste Renoir	Zaha Hadid / Ken Yeang	Anne Vallayer-Coster / Ancient Greek architects	Cultural artists and mythological traditions	Vincent van Gogh / Anselm Kiefer / Ai Weiwei
Vocabulary	Portraiture, facial proportions, alignment, eye line, shading, highlights, shadows, folds, embroidery	Impressionism, brushstrokes, broken colour, warm tones, cool tones, reflection, blending, impasto	Perspective, vanishing point, horizon line, 3D forms, structure, framework, curved forms, sustainable design	Symmetry, central axis, still life, columns, capitals, fluting, pediment, composition	Mythology, hybrid, exaggeration, stylisation, symbolism, decorative motifs,	Expressive marks, directional strokes, layering, surface texture, scratching, collage, mixed media, assemblage

					colour palette, cultural influences	
Year 5	**Autumn 1**	**Autumn 2**	**Spring 1**	**Spring 2**	**Summer 1**	**Summer 2**
Skill	Botanical observation, motif development and repeat pattern design	Figure drawing, viewpoint, spatial arrangement and historical illustration	Architectural perspective, structural drawing and decorative design	Figurative drawing, gesture, silhouette and spatial composition	Tonal modelling, atmospheric effects and spatial depth	Expressive painting, colour theory and independent composition
Focus	Developing detailed observational studies of natural forms and transforming botanical features into sophisticated repeating decorative patterns.	Representing people from different viewpoints and using proportion, scale, overlapping and lighting to create depth in historical scenes.	Developing architectural drawing skills through one-point and two-point perspective, symmetry and intricate decorative details.	Exploring how the human figure can be simplified and represented through gesture, positive and negative space and expressive silhouettes.	Creating imaginative space compositions using graduated shading, surface texture, atmospheric colour blending and changes in scale.	Exploring how artists use expressive brushwork, repeated geometric marks, organic forms and colour relationships to communicate mood and develop individual artistic styles.
Significant People	William Morris	Florence Nightingale (historical context)	Islamic architects and designers of the Taj Mahal	Elizabeth Catlett	Robert McCall / Peter Thorpe	Vincent van Gogh / Amrita Sher-Gil / Alma Thomas
Vocabulary	Botanical, motif, symmetry, tessellation, rotation, reflection, translation, repeat pattern	Viewpoint, gesture, overlapping, scale, foreground, middle ground, background, tonal contrast	One-point perspective, two-point perspective, vanishing point, horizon line, central axis, symmetry, architectural detail, ornamentation	Positive space, negative space, silhouette, proportion, contour, figurative, expressive, composition	Graduated tone, spherical, crater, atmosphere, luminosity, blending, scale, spatial depth	Expressive brushwork, complementary colours, colour harmony, organic forms, geometric forms, abstraction, critique, refinement
Year 6	**Autumn 1**	**Autumn 2**	**Spring 1**	**Spring 2**	**Summer 1**	**Summer 2**
Skill	Anatomical drawing, observational accuracy and three-dimensional modelling	Visual communication, graphic design and persuasive composition	Experimental portraiture, facial distortion and expressive representation	Surrealism, imaginative composition and visual juxtaposition	Fashion illustration, textile representation and independent design development	Aerial perspective, expressive representation, sculpture and critical evaluation
Focus	Developing detailed observational drawings of the human body by exploring anatomical structure, proportion, skeletal landmarks and the use of light and shadow to represent form.	Exploring how artists use colour, symbolism, typography and composition to communicate powerful messages and influence an audience through propaganda and protest art.	Exploring alternative ways of representing the human face through multiple viewpoints, distorted proportions and expressive use of colour and line.	Developing imaginative compositions by combining unrelated objects, manipulating scale and experimenting with perspective to create surreal and unexpected imagery.	Exploring historical fashion through observational drawing, researching different styles and independently developing detailed fashion illustrations using pattern, texture and shape.	Exploring how aerial viewpoints, expressive line and colour communicate perspective and emotion, while comparing artistic media and independently curating and evaluating final artwork.
Significant People	Leonardo da Vinci / Albrecht Dürer	Artists of propaganda and protest art	Pablo Picasso	Paul Nash / Salvador Dalí	Historical fashion designers and illustrators	Edvard Munch / Mary Edmonia Lewis
Vocabulary	Anatomy, skeletal structure, musculature, joints, landmarks, foreshortening, tonal modelling, chiaroscuro	Propaganda, symbolism, typography, hierarchy, visual language, juxtaposition, persuasion, composition	Cubism, fragmentation, distortion, multiple viewpoints, abstraction, asymmetry, expressionism, interpretation	Surrealism, juxtaposition, scale manipulation, incongruous, transformation, perspective, illusion, composition	Silhouette, drapery, textile, pleating, embellishment, fashion illustration, design development, refinement	Aerial perspective, bird's-eye view, linear distortion, expressive line, emotional intensity, sculpture, curation, critical evaluation