

# Overarching Arts Policy

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## Introduction

St Joseph's College prides itself on the quality of the teaching and pastoral care provided to each of its pupils, from EYFS across to Sixth Form, including Boarding. *The Governing body has ultimate responsibility for meeting all the College's regulatory requirements, which they delegate to the Principal, supported by the Senior Leadership team. In line with good practice and as part of the Governors' due diligence, the Board of Governors' reviews this policy annually.*

St Joseph's College, as an aware employer, is committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of children and young people as its number one priority. Robust recruitment, selection and induction procedures operate throughout the College and extend to organisations and services linked on its behalf.

### 1. Arts Introduction

"The Arts add quality and challenge to our lives, making us question and reflect on our thoughts, feelings and values and helping us respect the views of others. They provide opportunities for us all to explore and understand different forms of expression appreciate our diverse cultural heritage, gain a sense of personal identity and to be creative. Creative skills and the ability to innovate are increasingly important in responding to new challenges in the knowledge and economy of the future." **(From Policy to Partnership: Developing the Arts in Schools - The Arts Council of England. March 2000)**

St Joseph's College recognises the importance of the Arts in the development of a student's academic, social, moral, spiritual and cultural awareness and skills thus providing an all round education developing the whole person. The College aims to provide the means for all students, staff and members of the local community to experience the Arts beyond the norm and beyond traditional opportunities: Being able to offer students an increased breadth and depth of Arts provision including multicultural Arts. St Joseph's College offers an outstanding range of out-of-hours learning activities for all students throughout the year, in which a high percentage of students of both genders participate; at all times showing a clear commitment to equal opportunities, with imaginative ways of providing for the least and the most able. The College offers and provides all students with a broad variety and choice of Arts visits and experiences and has established and continues to improve links and partnerships with other schools and businesses, that enable our students to watch artists at work, experience finished work and work alongside artists and professionals within the Arts industry. St Joseph's College recognises the importance for staff to develop their own professional skills and provides access to a range of continuing professional development opportunities for all staff. We firmly believe that an artist is not a special sort of person, but **every person is a special sort of artist** and at all times the Arts are promoted for all members of the school community and beyond.

The College has been awarded Artsmark Gold from the Arts Council England. Artsmark is a key driver for change at the College, with full support at all levels. The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team use Artsmark to identify key priorities that feed directly into the College's strategic values. Celebration and reward are vital to recognising an individual's achievements: Artsmark enables the College to focus and fine tune how, when and why to have significant impact upon a child's wellbeing and development.

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Being part of the Artsmark community also provides a catalyst for exploring new artforms. Since starting in 2007, the College continues to develop alternative artforms to provide a stimulating and varied education.

The difference at St Joseph's is most evident in the behaviour of our students – from their sense of community, their respect and support for others, their confidence and courtesy, their aspiration and achievement, their effort, enthusiasm and eagerness to help. Through the arts education at the College, students develop their confidence participating in arts in **arts** activities with peers, the feedback they give to each other builds **self-respect** by helping them learn to accept constructive feedback and praise from others. Every child is celebrated through the arts and provided with a platform to exhibit their creativity. A selection of students supported choirs and a German school's orchestra in Belgium and again in Berlin for the reburial of British and German First World War unnamed soldiers and an anniversary of the Berlin wall coming down.

Arts and culture underpin the ethos, values and mission at St Joseph's College. Through a wide variety of artistic opportunities, students express their creative flair and celebrate their enjoyment of the arts within our community. The curriculum is designed to embrace opportunities beyond classroom-based learning such as trips to museums, theatres and performances. These events are held within the school and embed creative thinking to promote a love for learning. The arts instil confidence within the students at St Joseph's College which is often recognised through quality of work, ability to present and teach one another and support each other to creative sense of community throughout the College. We recognise the significant and positive impact the arts and creative subjects have on individuals at a personal level and as such, identify and nurture passion and talent to develop the whole person. Colourful, fun, expressive, noisy, and sometimes messy, the arts at St Joseph's are part of our children's lives. The College is recognised for its Arts delivery and in April 2019 become a Trinity Champion Centre. Previously the College held Good Practice Centre for Arts Award.

Spirituality is inextricably linked to creativity and the creative act and at all times we ensure provisions for a range of high quality Arts experiences to meet every student's moral, ethical and spiritual needs.

There are contributions, which the Arts education can make to students' spiritual development which are unique to this area of the curriculum and others which overlap with, or are shared by, other subjects. We believe that the experiences of making and responding to the visual and performing arts are essential to our students' well-being, cultural development and that learning, as a creative and personal process, is also spiritual in nature. Furthermore, the Arts have the ability to reach across time and tell us what people from other times and places thought, felt and believed. This overarching Arts Policy aims to help ensure entitlement for all and within the following pages sets out not only a description of our current Arts provision and strengths, but also a display of our continued commitment to teaching and learning within the Arts. The policy also outlines the structures to secure progression in learning and a management structure which allows the College to plan for, develop and review the Arts for all students. This policy (alongside the Creative & Performing Arts Development Plan) will enable the College to allocate staffing, funding and resources to every student, member of staff, partner schools and the local community.

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Creative & Performing Arts Developments include:

- Increased KS3 curriculum time in the arts
- The College is an Arts Award Centre with Arts Award Advisors (The Prep School and Senior School), offering a range of Arts Awards: Arts Award Discover, Arts Award Explorer and Arts Award Bronze and Silver
- LAMDA examination centre
- Cross-curricular Arts trips and visits
- Further and wider opportunities in competing and performing Music, Drama and Art, suite of Macs with the latest music technology programmes
- New pianos throughout the College including a Model D Steinway
- Musical Futures Program in place throughout Key Stage 3
- New state of the art recording studio
- ATCL courses delivered and accredited by Trinity College London

The college are funding instrumental tuition and the loan of instruments to every Year 3 pupil for the duration of one academic year. The following instruments are currently being offered:

- violin
- flute
- trumpet
- trombone

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### 1.1. Aims



## 2. Creative & Performing Arts Faculty Structure

The Creative and Performing Arts Faculty forms one of the nine faculties within our whole College academic structure. Art & Design, Photography, Drama, Dance and Music are represented within this faculty, Media is part of Technology and English Language and English Literature are part of the English Faculty.

### 2.1.1 The Subject Teachers

Each Faculty within the senior part of the College has a team of subject specialists, including a Head of Faculty. The team is responsible for all teaching and learning, monitoring, assessing and reporting within their area. All subject teachers have the opportunity to teach all age ranges across the Senior School. There are also opportunities and provision for cross-curricular work and

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weekly lessons given to the Prep School. Each Faculty works towards the College Development Plan for their subject/s and also the targets set within the College's plans for the Arts. All staff work to develop their personal artistic skills, share good practice and have close links with local partner schools, colleges and Arts organisations. Many Arts staff are performers and artists in their own right.

### 2.1.2 The Director of Music

The role of the Director of Music includes the oversight of their specialist subject area across the whole college, to ensure smooth management, a high standard of teaching and learning, and a wide range of musical experiences for all students. The Director of Music is also responsible for the administration and day to day running of instrumental lessons and examinations. They have a strategic role to play in all aspects of the Creative & Performing Arts Faculty, including working with partnership schools and community links. The Director of Music also has responsibility for pastoral support for students within Music, and liaison with relevant Heads of Years to raise standards of achievement and meet the needs of every student. The Director of Music helps with Faculty strategic planning and development and is responsible to the Vice Principal Co-curricular.

### 2.1.3 The Vice Principal Co-curricular

The Vice Principal Co-curricular is responsible for the Arts across the whole College including the coordination and overview of objectives detailed in the Creative and Performing Arts Development Plan and Artsmark Action Plan. The Vice Principal Co-curricular has line management responsibility for staff in the Arts Faculty and Technology Faculty. In addition to this role, the Vice Principal Co-curricular is also the leader for the Art & Design Department and is the Artsmark contact. The Head of Faculty for English has responsibility to promote the Arts within the English Faculty through English Literature (poetry, fiction, non-fiction, TV and radio); and the Head of Technology has responsibility to promote the Arts through Media and Multimedia (film, video). The Vice Principal Co-curricular monitors the quality, range, diversity and provision of the Arts. As the Vice Principal Co-curricular (SLT) and Heads of Faculty (Middle Managers) they are also responsible for the welfare of the students within the associated subject areas.

### 2.1.4 The Principal

As the leader of the College community, the Principal is ultimately responsible for all aspects of student education and welfare in the college. All decisions and developments concerning the Arts at the College and, in particular, with reference to the Artsmark planning and implementation are discussed with the Principal at all stages by the Vice Principal Co-curricular.

## 2.2 Associate Staff

Peripatetic Music Teachers are visiting specialists who work in the Music department teaching a wide range of instrumental and vocal skills. They are responsible to the Director of Music. Peripatetic Music teachers work with students across the whole college, and are willing to prepare and enter students for graded examinations when appropriate. A wide range of examination boards is used. Peripatetic staff also enter students for public competitions and festivals such as The Suffolk Festival of Performing Arts and support and run working alongside the Director of Music in-house music concerts.

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This role has been developed as part of the Creative & Performing Arts provision to provide additional out of hours learning of performing arts. The LAMDA tutor is a visiting specialist who works within the Creative & Performing Arts Faculty and is responsible to the Vice Principal Co-curricular. The following LAMDA courses are available:

- The Speaking of Verse and Prose (includes English theory)
- Acting Solo
- Acting Combined (includes solo pieces and duologue, grades 1-5)
- Public Speaking for grades 6, 7 and 8
- LAMDA Introductory
- Musical Theatre

LAMDA courses are also offered to our younger pupils in the Prep School with further courses available to meet all of our pupils' needs across the age ranges. These courses promote confidence and expression.

ATCL courses are offered to students who have successfully achieved a grade 8 within LAMDA.

Artists in residence visit the College annually. They are professionals who work and perform alongside students and pupils from partner schools. This takes the form of teaching and support within the classroom, workshops and staff training.

### 2.3 Arts Award

Arts Award develops arts knowledge and offers our pupils an inspiring arts journey. Each path can take a different direction — from fashion to film-making, from dance to design, from pottery to poetry.

All pupils in Year 8 access Arts Award Bronze. Arts Award Silver is offered as an extracurricular opportunity for senior pupils. Arts Award supports young people to grow as artists and arts leaders, inspiring young people to enjoy the arts. The rationale for running this course is that, Arts Award offers the chance to develop creativity, communication and leadership skills. Such skills and characteristics are useful when looking for further education and job opportunities not only in the arts but also in other fields. The awards are recognised formally through the national qualifications framework: Arts Award Bronze is formally recognised as Level 1 National Qualification.

Gifted and Talented pupils in the Prep School are formally invited to join and participate with Arts Award Discover as an additional arts opportunity. This opportunity provides pupils with opportunities to discover the arts by participating in a wide variety of arts activities find out about artists and their work and share their discoveries with others. This course highlights leadership, evaluative, higher order thinking skills.

There are currently four members of staff who are qualified advisors to support Arts Award Bronze and Silver and Arts Award Discover and Explore.

St Joseph's College was awarded Good Practice Centre by Trinity College in 2015 for its deliverance of the Arts awards programmes and in 2019 and 2020, Trinity Champion Centre.

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## 2.4 Community Links

Arts Organisations: There are many local Arts organisations that work closely with the School. These local artists make use of the facilities, resources and share expertise. Opportunities have been extended by the provision, training opportunities and broader experiences available through DfE funded projects, including a partnership link project with CSV working with artist in residence David Blandy. To broaden our Dance opportunities, an exciting project with Dance East and renowned choreographer Wayne McGregor and his company Random took place working together in partnership with two other schools within the Ipswich area. The two-year project saw the profile of Dance at St Joseph's College and at the other partnership schools, rise and prompted students at the College to study Dance at GCSE level. Since this partnership was established further links with DanceEast have been formed and the College's annual musical takes place at Jerwood House. The College was part of a three-year educational partnership with Red Rose Chain when lots of exciting things took place. In addition pupils take advantage of opportunities sought by the College with the Royal Academy of Arts, Tate, The British Museum, National Gallery, Fitzwilliam, Sainsbury Centre, Ipswich & District Photographic Society, Ipswich Arts Society, The Red Rose Chain, The New Wolsey Theatre, Cambridge Arts Theatre, The Wallace Collection and has been awarded by The Arts Council, England for the extensive Arts provisions and opportunities offered by the College.

Partner Schools: St. Joseph's College has always had a strong tradition of links with other schools and this has been particularly true of the Arts, where numerous workshops, performance opportunities and facility/resources support have been in place for many years.

Outreach and further initiatives: Local schools across the East Anglia region continue to enjoy and participate in SNAP (Suffolk Norfolk Amateur Photographers), an initiative formed in 2007 at St Joseph's College, working in partnership with Ipswich District Photographic Society. SNAP is open to all children and young adults aged 4-25. In 2015 Spotlight was established by the College to encourage primary schools to engage with the performing arts. Local schools are invited to watch the College's musical being performed in a professional theatre and then complete short tasks related to what they have watched and experienced. During the summer term, schools are invited to attend workshops led by our arts specialists in preparation for the finale performance, which takes place during the College's annual arts festival, at the Avenue Theatre. The showcasing of talent is a platform for young people to perform in front of professionals. Both initiatives are also used as an opportunity for young people to discover and to be celebrated for their application of the arts.

## 3 Annual College Musical

Traditionally 60 – 70 students across the year groups in the senior school have taken part in the annual College musical. Auditions are held along with call backs before casting takes place in preparation for the performance. Students are cast, and then rehearse three to four times a week led by subject specialist teachers in all disciplines. Students learn solo or group dance routines, learn musical numbers and develop performance skills leading to a unique opportunity to perform in front of large audiences in a professional theatre. Students are also invited to work on all non-performing aspects of running a musical. Roles available include lighting, sound, backstage, stage management and front of house.

- 2014 - Pendragon

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- 2015 – The Crucible
- 2016 - Oliver
- 2017 – South Pacific
- 2018 – School of Rock
- 2019 – Hairspray
- 2020 – Little Shop of Horrors

The College musical, which takes place annually in February, and a Lower School play in the summer term provides opportunities for our younger students (Year 7-9) to perform on stage taking on principal roles. Juniors also perform in a large-scale production annually.

### 4 The Arts Curriculum

#### 4.1 Helping Children Achieve More (Every Child Matters)

Our Arts curriculum aims to promote healthy lifestyles through active activities, we encourage older children to help with out-of-hours activities with younger pupils to develop positive relationships and reduce bullying; and use links with performing and visual artists and art organisations to show children the range of activities and jobs available in the community.

Enjoy and achieve: The Arts curriculum is embedded in the school's ethos and contributes to the outcomes of Every Child Matters. All students have the opportunity to access extra-curricular activities out-of-hours, which encourages each student to develop and pursue an enjoyment of a broad range of arts activities.

Stay Safe: St. Joseph's College looks to provide stimulating and motivating experiences in the arts through setting up visits with artists and musicians, believing that these bring meaning to children are learning and promote an interest in and love of the arts, which will stay with them long after they leave the school. We make every effort to ensure the health and safety of all our students and staff and complete thorough risk assessments for every visit and that there are always staff present on all occasions when an outside practitioner is in school.

Achieve Economic Well-Being: The children's well-being is always at the forefront in our minds. The arts curriculum at the college aims to achieve economic well-being for our students by establishing partnerships with other arts organisations. Organisations are carefully chosen for their abilities to offer experience for our students and enable our students to have a 360-degree understanding of the workings of a professional arts organisation. A range of careers in the Arts are also highlighted through the various experiences the students have at and beyond St Joseph's College.

Creativity and critical thinking: This dimension enables children to engage with the world around them in critical and creative ways and to take part in imaginative and purposeful activity across the entire curriculum. Creativity and critical thinking can unlock young people's potential, leading to personal fulfilment, as well as contributing to the artistic, scientific or technological achievements that help shape and influence wider society.

#### 4.2 The Arts Curriculum Provision

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The Arts Curriculum aims to provide and engage every child with a variety of art forms to explore values, attitudes, feelings and meanings. Through the teachings of Art, Dance, Drama and Music there are opportunities and provisions for all students to develop creativity, self-esteem, confidence and maturity. Through participation in the Arts students learn about the Arts of diverse cultures; develop the ability to create, appreciate and make critical judgements about artworks, music, poetry, performance and literature; students are encouraged to work independently and in teams, to share Arts experiences and present artworks to others; develop an understanding of the role of the Arts in society, including a career; and; increase active independent involvement in cultural opportunities. Individual subject provisions, needs and resources are contained within their subject policies.

### 4.3 Pupils' Entitlement to the Arts at each Key Stage

Pupils throughout the College access the Arts during curriculum time through lessons, arts curriculum days, specific performances and dance blocked curriculum time. Blocked Arts Curriculum time is dedicated to enthusing and engaging every pupil. Special and unique opportunities are designed and provided to widen every child experiences, creatively and artistically. By devoting blocked time pupils have focused and concentrated arts opportunities and lessons. This enables our pupils to develop their performance, creative and investigative skills through the medium of Dance, Drama, Art & Design and Music. In addition to this allocated time during the curriculum, all students across the College participate in rehearsals, trips, artist led workshops and performances beyond the school day.

There is a wide and varied choice of instrumental lessons, which are offered to all children from Year 3 upwards. In addition to this the college fund instrumental tuition and the loan of instruments to every Year 3 pupil for the duration of one academic year as part of the 'music for all' initiative.

Students have the opportunities to study LAMDA from year 4 upwards. The College also provides ATCL courses for students who have achieved a grade 8 within LAMDA. These examinations are accredited by Trinity College, London.

Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of Arts Award throughout the College:

<b>ARTS AWARD</b>
<b>Discover – combined Arts</b>
<b>Bronze – Music, Drama, Art</b>
<b>Silver – Music, Art, Theatre</b>

Students have the opportunity to opt for arts subjects at GCSE level at the end of Year 9:

<b>GCSE</b>
<b>Arts subjects</b>
<b>GCSE Fine Art</b>
<b>GCSE Art &amp; Design (Photography)</b>
<b>GCSE Music</b>
<b>GCSE Drama</b>
<b>Creative iMedia</b>



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Students have the opportunity to opt for A Level arts subjects at the end of Year 11:

Post 16
Arts subjects
A Level Fine Art
A Level Photography
A Level Music
A Level Literature
BTEC Performing Arts
CTEC Digital Media

### 4.4 Management of Arts Provision and Assurance of Quality

The management of the Arts provision and assurance of quality being delivered by our Arts staff are exceptionally important. They determine 'how' each and every student is being developed as a 'whole' person. Our Arts provision adds a unique quality to the individual and we pride ourselves on the achievements by all of our students, both through their artistic and social traits. Therefore the management of Arts provision and the assurance of quality are considered very carefully at every level.

The Arts Focus Group: The Arts Focus Group is chaired by the Vice Principal Co-curricular, when preparations were underway to submit a proposal for Artsmark. The group is made up of a Governor, the Prep School co-ordinator, Director of Music, and staff affiliated with the Creative and Performing Arts and Technology. This group also monitors and evaluates the objectives and targets in preparation for the annual report. Meetings take place throughout each academic year to discuss and implement developments and planning for the arts provision, taking into account the curriculum, out-of-hours opportunities, sharing and celebrating achievements in the arts, visits and partnerships with arts organisations outside school, and the contribution of the arts to the whole college environment. Minutes of these meetings are distributed to all College staff where all staff will be asked to contribute to the College's ethos and planning mechanisms for the Arts provision. These ideas are shared and discussed at whole staff meetings as required. All developments and decisions concerning the Arts provision are discussed and approved by the Principal prior to implementation.

Young Arts Voices: Young Arts Voices is a forum for scholars and students with an interest in the Arts to voice their opinions regarding the curriculum, extracurricular activities, arts opportunities and working with others, including arts professionals. The group feeds into the Arts Focus Group who meet termly.

## 5 The Contribution of the Arts

The Arts contributes to each individual and adds value to their College life, by engaging each pupil with creativity and teaches students to become independent and reflective learners. We, as practitioners, teach every student to use their creative skills of visual, role-play, words, sound, and/or performance to communicate effectively at every level; and celebrate their achievements at every opportunity. Through a wide range of extra-curricular activities that we currently provide; (theatre production performances, orchestra rehearsals, the choir, jazz and blues club, art club

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and dance club); all students have opportunities to come together and socialise whilst engaging in the Arts.

### 6 Individual Subject Policies & Assessment Procedures

A full set of policies are held within each subject area, including the safeguarding in Creative & Performing Arts, scholarship processes within the Arts and are reviewed each year within departments to meet whole College aims and objectives. Each subject area conforms to the whole College assessment policy and the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty has its own grading and marking system, which is used to ensure marking consistency throughout the Arts. The Faculty uses assessment and target setting to raise achievements and allow each pupil to progress at a rate to suit their own ability.

### 7 Inspection Report & Arts Audits

St Joseph's College was inspected in 2019. The reports were exceptionally useful and identified and made positive comments on the contribution that the Arts make to the College as a whole. The College undergoes biannual arts audits to meet the necessary requirements for Artsmark.



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