

Art Governors Report
July 2021

Despite the challenges that have come hand in hand with this strange year, it has been great to see that art has continued to be a subject that has excited our pupils and still been a source of great pleasure for them during these unusual times.

Black History Month Art Day (October 2020)

We started the Autumn Term with an art day inspired by Black History Month, which was a lovely opportunity for children get creative in the midst of the intense, nationwide catch-up curriculum whilst also learning about current worldwide issues that were at the forefront of the media in 2020. For this, children looked at artwork from The Tate's Soul of a Nation exhibition which comprised of artwork produced during the Civil Rights Movement. Each year group were given a piece of artwork to use to inspire their own work (see photograph 1 below). They also learned about British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare and used his story to think about racial stereotypes in art.

Staff Training (April 2021)

Before working at Mersey Park, I was an art teacher at a primary school in North Wales so was delighted to be appointed as art subject leader in September. I have been attending virtual art training courses, led by art practitioners Paul Carney and Susan Coles, since May 2020 and was approached to deliver a training session to Mersey Park teaching staff in April about changes to how art is delivered in primary schools, primarily about sketchbook use. Feedback from staff was good and it has been great to see ideas discussed being used in classes throughout the school.

Sketchbooks

During the training, I informed staff about new pedagogy around sketchbook use in primary schools; how they should be private spaces for children to explore, develop their ideas and reflect on their work. Teaching staff have now each been given a sketchbook to use to experiment alongside the children and each class has also been given an A2 sketchbook to use for large scale collaborative pieces and to present photographs of children's artwork each half term. These A2 sketchbooks will follow classes through the school so they can be referred to when needed (perhaps by OFSTED if they were to ask children to talk about their progression in the subject).

Kapow

When I first started at Mersey Park and took on the role of art subject leader, I audited staff on their confidence to deliver the art curriculum in line with new pedagogy. Whilst taking part in CPD courses, Kapow Primary was recommended to staff as an online platform with exemplar lessons linked to all aspects of the primary art curriculum for each year group from Years 1-6. Feedback from staff about Kapow has been good and it will be integrated into the curriculum from September.

Whole school, themed art displays.



1. Black History Month
Art Day, October 2020



2. Remembrance Day,
November 2020



3. Love, Peace, Joy and Hope
Sunflowers, October 2020

As we continue to get back to normal, it is lovely to see art being reintroduced into timetables across the school and staff implementing new strategies introduced during our training afternoon. Everybody is very much looking forward to using these ideas, as well as Kapow, next year.