

RATIONALE: VISUAL ARTS

This rationale complements and extends the rationale for The Arts learning area. Visual Arts includes the fields of art, craft and design. Learning in and through these fields, students create visual representations that communicate, challenge and express their own and others' ideas as artist and audience. They develop perceptual and conceptual understanding, critical reasoning and practical skills through exploring and expanding their understanding of their world, and other worlds. They learn about the role of the artist, craftsperson and designer, their contribution to society, and the significance of the creative industries. Similarly with the other art forms, the visual arts has the capacity to engage, inspire and enrich the lives of students, encouraging them to reach their creative and intellectual potential by igniting informed, imaginative and innovative thinking. Through Visual Arts, students make and respond using visual arts knowledge, understanding and skills to represent meaning associated with personal and global views, and intrinsic and extrinsic worlds. Visual Arts engages students in a journey of discovery, experimentation and problem-solving relevant to visual perception and visual language. Students undertake this journey by utilising visual techniques, technologies, practices and processes. Learning in the Visual Arts, students become increasingly confident and proficient in achieving their personal visual aesthetic, and appreciate and value that of others. Visual Arts supports students to view the world through various lenses and contexts. They recognise the significance of visual arts histories, theories and practices, exploring and responding to artists, craftspeople and designers and their artworks. They apply visual arts knowledge in order to make critical judgments about their own importance as artists and audiences. Learning in the Visual Arts helps students to develop understanding of world culture and their responsibilities as global citizens.

Learning Area The Arts: Years 3 and 4 Achievement Standard
By the end of Year 4, students describe and discuss similarities and differences between artworks they make and those to which they respond. They discuss how they and others organise the elements and processes in artworks.
Students collaborate to plan and make artworks that communicate ideas.
Visual Arts: Years 3 and 4 Achievement Standard
By the end of Year 4, students describe and discuss similarities and differences between artworks they make, present and view. They discuss how they and others use visual conventions in artworks.
Students collaborate to plan and make artworks that are inspired by artworks they experience. They use visual conventions, techniques and processes to communicate their ideas.

AIMS

- In addition to the overarching aims of the Australian Curriculum: The Arts, Visual Arts knowledge, understanding and skills ensure that, individually and collaboratively, students develop:
- conceptual and perceptual ideas and representations through design and inquiry processes
 - visual arts techniques, materials, processes and technologies
 - critical and creative thinking, using visual arts languages, theories and practices to apply aesthetic judgment
 - respect for and acknowledgement of the diverse roles, innovations, traditions, histories and cultures of artists, craftspeople and designers; visual arts as social and cultural practices; and industry as artists and audiences
 - confidence, curiosity, imagination and enjoyment and develop a personal aesthetic through engagement with visual arts making and ways of representing and communicating

Organisation and Content Structure

In the Australian Curriculum, the Arts is a learning area that draws together related but distinct art forms. While these art forms have close relationships and are often used in interrelated ways, each involves different approaches to arts practices and critical and creative thinking that reflect distinct bodies of knowledge, understanding and skills. The curriculum examines past, current and emerging arts practices in each art form across a range of cultures and places. The Australian Curriculum: The Arts Foundation to Year 10 enables exploration of the dynamic relationships between Arts subjects. This can involve students making and responding to artworks in traditional, contemporary and emerging forms, using materials, techniques and technologies from one Arts subject to support learning in another. In this twenty-first century Arts curriculum, students explore innovative and hybrid art forms which extend and challenge art making and combine practices of two or more art forms. Within all Arts subjects, design facilitates the creative and practical realisation of ideas. Design thinking is a fundamental strategy in the experimentation, refinement and resolution of an artwork and takes into account logical, critical and aesthetic considerations. Many different words describe design within the Arts such as choreographing, narrating, devising, constructing, composing and sculpting. Design connects the different art forms so that they inform each other, providing possibilities for students to create innovative and hybrid forms of art.

Strands - Content descriptions in each Arts subject reflect the interrelated strands of *Making* and *Responding*.

- *Making* includes learning about and using knowledge, skills, techniques, processes, materials and technologies to explore arts practices and make artworks that communicate ideas and intentions.
- *Responding* includes exploring, responding to, analysing and interpreting artworks.

Relationship between the strands: *Making* and *Responding* are intrinsically connected. Together they provide students with knowledge, understanding and skills as artists, performers and audience and develop students' skills in critical and creative thinking. As students make artworks they actively respond to their developing artwork and the artworks of others; as students respond to artworks they draw on the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired through their experiences in making artworks.

Viewpoints - In both making and responding to artworks, students consider a range of viewpoints or perspectives through which artworks can be explored and interpreted. These include the contexts in which the artworks are made by artists and experienced by audiences. The world can be interpreted through different contexts, including social, cultural and historical contexts. Based on this curriculum, key questions are provided as a framework for developing students' knowledge, understanding and inquiry skills.

In **Visual Arts**, students experience and explore the concepts of artists, artworks, world and audience. Students learn in, through and about visual arts practices, including the fields of art, craft and design. Students develop practical skills and critical thinking which inform their work as artists and audience.

Knowledge and skills of Visual Arts
Students make new knowledge and develop their skills, techniques and processes as they explore a diversity of artists, visual imagery, representations, designed objects and environments, and viewpoints and practices. Knowledge, understanding and skills are intrinsically linked and interact with each other constantly through and between Making and Responding.

The Arts across Foundation to Year 10: Years 3 – 6

Through the primary years, students draw on their growing experience of family, school and the wider community to develop their understanding of the world and their relationships with others. In Years 3 to 6, learning in the Arts occurs both through integrated curriculum and The Arts subject-specific approaches. Some of the instinct to play evident in the early years becomes formalised into both experimentation and artistic practice. Students in these years increasingly recognise the connections between the Arts and other learning areas. While arts in the local community continues to be the initial focus for learning in the Arts, students are also aware of and interested in arts from more distant locations and the curriculum provides opportunities to build on this curiosity. Students learn that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples tell history through combinations of art forms. They learn that particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories have been recorded and will explore the meanings of stories and styles in which they are told. Students have opportunities to participate in a variety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art forms that are publicly available for broader participation in their community. Students may also extend their cultural expression with appropriate community consultation and endorsement. Students also study artworks which represent Australia's connections with other places, the effects of these interconnections and the factors that affect people's knowledge and opinions of other places. During these years of schooling, students' thought processes become more logical and consistent, and they gradually become more independent as learners. Students talk about changes in their own thinking, performance or making, giving reasons for their actions and explaining and demonstrating their organisation of ideas. They begin to recognise, appreciate and value the different ways in which others think, act and respond to artworks and consider how practices in the Arts may be enacted and sustained.

Content descriptions in each Arts subject focus on similar concepts and skills that, across the bands, present a developmental sequence of knowledge, understanding and skills. The focus of each content description in Foundation to Year 6 expands into more specific content descriptions for Years 7 to 10 as presented in the table below. For transition purposes from primary to secondary in Years 7–8 and consistency state-wide, generalist primary teachers at Year 7 could focus on the four initial similar concepts and skills eg, the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 6th Content Descriptions, with the deeper and expanded concepts being the focus in year 8, eg, the 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 7th Content Descriptions. E.g. The focus in Year 7 could then be on: 8.1, 8.3, 8.5 and 8.6, and in Year 8: 8.2, 8.4, 8.5 and 8.7

Content description	Foundation– Yr 6	Content description	Yrs 7–10
1st	Exploring ideas and improvising with ways to represent ideas	1st	Exploring ideas and improvising with ways to represent ideas
		2nd	Manipulating and applying the elements/concepts with intent
2nd	Developing understanding of practices	3rd	Developing and refining understanding of skills and techniques
		4th	Structuring and organising ideas into form
3rd	Sharing artworks through performance, presentation or display	5th	Sharing artworks through performance, presentation or display
4th	Responding to and interpreting artworks	6th	Analysing and reflecting upon intentions
		7th	Responding to and interpreting artworks

Years 3-4 Level Description: Visual Arts

In Years 3 and 4, learning in Visual Arts builds on the experience of the previous band. It involves students making and responding to visual arts independently, and collaboratively with their classmates and teachers.

Students extend their awareness of how and why artists, craftspeople and designers realise their ideas through different visual representations, practices, processes and viewpoints. They explore and experiment with a greater diversity of materials, techniques and technologies. They further enhance their perceptual skills by observing closely the visual detail of the world around them and applying these observations through different practical applications of art making. Through observational, imaginative, cognitive and sensory investigations, students become more knowledgeable and discerning about their practices as a visual artist. They can determine and execute an individual approach to a theme or subject matter. They explore, predict outcomes, test and explain their experimentation. They use different physical and digital materials and techniques, technologies and processes in visual arts forms, such as painting, drawing, sculpture, design and digital media.

As they experience visual arts, students draw on artworks from a range of cultures, times and locations. They explore the influences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and of the Asia region. Students learn about visual arts in their community. They also learn about visual arts from more distant locations that may be represented in their community. Students also explore different styles of art made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

As they make and respond to visual artworks as artists and audiences, students explore visual representations based on their investigations of past histories, their heritage, and significant events and celebrations within their community. They make connections between their own artistic intentions and those of other artists, observing and identifying ideas and symbols used and adapted by artists in their artworks.

Students learn about safe visual arts practices. Their understanding of the roles of artists and audiences builds upon their experience from the previous band.

Years 3–4: Examples of Knowledge and skills in Visual Arts

Students apply their knowledge and understanding through appropriate and skilful use of visual arts practices as artists and audiences. Through *Making* and *Responding*, students develop knowledge, skills and understanding of their art making by becoming increasingly proficient with art, craft and design techniques, processes, and ways of perceiving worlds.

Examples of knowledge and skills in Visual Arts:

The following information serves to articulate the main parts of the broader conceptual areas of Knowledge and Skills. These are not an exclusive, exhaustive list, but an indication of the breadth of study within Visual Arts. In this band students develop their knowledge of how ideas and intentions are communicated in and through visual arts. They build on and refine their knowledge, understanding and skills through visual arts practices focusing on:

Representation

- Subject matter* - such as past histories, heritage, significant events and community celebrations
- Forms* - drawing, design, painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography and film
- Styles* - figurative, realism, expressionistic, impressionistic and others
- Techniques* - photo-montage, weaving, block printing, digital imaging, wrapping, pottery and others
- Visual conventions* - identifying, using and interpreting a selection of design elements and design principles
- Materials* - understanding qualities and properties of a range of materials
- Technologies* - traditional and digital

Practices

- Spaces* - recognising the meaning of studio, and adopting appropriate behaviour in the studio as a specialised space, for example, cleaning up, organising materials, naming work and exhibiting work
- Skills* - investigative—researching, discovering and reinterpreting artworks from various viewpoints as artist and audience
 - observational—seeing, noticing and viewing critically
 - practical—use of visual arts materials, equipment and instruments
- Processes* - investigating, determining, conceiving, experimenting, questioning, predicting, testing, evaluating, comparing, analysing, observing, identifying and connecting

Viewpoints

- Contexts* - recognising artists and artworks from the past, and from different cultures, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and from Asia

Years 3–4: Considering viewpoints in Visual Arts

In both *Making* and *Responding*, students learn that meanings can be generated from different viewpoints and that these shift according to different world encounters. As students make, investigate or critique artworks as artists and audiences, they may ask and answer questions to interrogate the artists' meanings and the audiences' interpretations. Meanings and interpretations are informed by contexts of societies, cultures and histories, and an understanding of visual arts practices. These questions provide the basis for making informed critical judgments about their own art and design works and other artworks they see, hear and interact with as audiences.

Examples of viewpoints and questions within the Visual Arts Content Elaborations Years 3–4

Considering viewpoints:

- *Meanings and interpretations:* For example – What is this painting telling us about the past? How does the artwork use visual conventions to convey meaning? How did the artist work within a space, and at this time? How and why did they innovate their practice?
- *Societies and cultures:* For example – What clues in the artwork tell you where it was made, who made it, and why? What artworks are you familiar with? Which style of artworks represents your community? What are the people in the painting doing? Can you draw what you did on Australia Day?
- *Materials and technologies:* For example – What is the artwork made of? How does the choice of material enhance the audience's understanding of the artist's intention? Can you develop your ideas using different materials?
- *Evaluations:* For example – Did you enjoy looking at the artwork? Why? Which artwork do you like the most? Explain why you like it. What artworks do you like to make, and why? Compare these buildings and their relationship with the environment, e.g. the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre and the Temple of the Golden Pavilion, Kyoto

Years 3-4 Content Descriptions: Visual Arts

- 4.1 Explore ideas and artworks from different cultures and times, including artwork by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, to use as inspiration for their own representations
- 4.2 Use materials, techniques and processes to explore visual conventions when making artworks
- 4.3 Present artworks and describe how they have used visual conventions to represent their ideas
- 4.4 Identify purposes and meanings of artworks using visual arts terminology to compare artworks, starting with visual artworks in Australia, including visual artworks of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

NB: It is advised that the 'Learning in Visual Arts' two page introduction (Subject, structure) is used along with this 'explorer' paper. Download it from the Australian Curriculum website.

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