



# Creative Arts at Vanguard School

## Subject Statement

### **Intent:**

At Vanguard School, we believe that the Arts are essential for promoting positive emotional and physical well-being, which is at the heart of our exciting and innovative curriculum. All students at Vanguard experience the richness of a broad arts curriculum which meets the seven quality principles of Arts Council England's Quality Framework. These include a commitment to excellence and innovation, authenticity and providing a positive and inclusive experience which enables personal progression and develops a sense of belonging.

We have a commitment to nurturing creative talent and developing young people's transferable life skills, including the use of imagination and considered risk taking, co-operation, resilience, flexibility and responsibility as well as leadership and entrepreneurial skills. We recognise that some autistic pupils may benefit greatly from the therapeutic aspects of the Arts and we will therefore personalise our curriculum to meet therapeutic needs where possible. As a school, we recognise that the open-ended nature of tasks traditionally set in Arts subjects can at times be overwhelming for autistic young people. Learning in these subjects will be thus be set out through clear and easy-to-follow structures, including for example design briefs with clear requirements.

We recognise that the opportunity to learn through drama, dance, art, music and design and technology supports our autistic pupils to make meaningful links to real life experiences, develop a sense of self and allow them to be experiment with being creative and independent within in a safe, nurturing environment.

As pupils progress through the school, students are supported to explore how the arts disciplines and the skills they promote could be developed into a career pathway and continued as a leisure activity to promote engagement in the world around them. The school is committed to strengthening relationships and building new partnerships which make the arts sustainable and bring wide ranging benefits to our young people, their families and the wider community.

### **Implementation:**

At Vanguard School, pupils follow the National Curriculum Programme for creative arts subjects. Discrete subject lessons are delivered in music and performance, which includes drama, art and design technology. We also recognise the value of the arts as a teaching tool across the curriculum, which allows our students to apply their knowledge to real life situations. The subjects are taught by subject specialists with access to specialised resources, technology and facilities.

We also seek to build on our pupils' specific strengths and interests; recognising that some pupils have an interest in particular aspects of the arts and may wish to undertake deeper study in these

areas. Vanguard School offers the Foundation (Level 1), Higher (Level 2) and Extended Project Qualifications to its pupils in order to celebrate their special interests and develop skills in research, project planning and creative expression.

We provide every young person with the opportunity to be inspired by the arts by making use of the creative diversity within the borough and our capital city, in order to make a meaningful contribution to the cultural richness of our community.