

St John's Catholic Infant School

Expectations for Drama

Pre-School Foundation 2		
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To begin to understand the world around them, through watching others and imitating this through play eg. Playing teachers. • To create games through play, in order to develop creativity and understanding by developing a variety of ways in which to communicate. • To begin to develop communication skills when responding to others. 	
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretend to be someone else and play out a scene. • Engage with others in imaginative play in a safe environment • Demonstrate thoughts, ideas and feelings through actions and language • Respond to others in role. 	
KS1	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share ideas and explore issues in an imagined context • Take part in a range of drama strategies including freeze frame, tableau and hot seating • Use simple props, symbols and images to represent meaning and as a group work together to create a collection of noises that sound like a given theme, topic or place. • Use voice and body to create characters in an imagined way • Engage in dramatic play using stories and other stimuli. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devise improvised drama from a range of stimuli • Explore the use of drama strategies to deepen the role or understanding of the situation • Select appropriate props, symbols and images to represent meaning and understand their effect • Choose vocabulary and movement to match the person, place and time required by the story or situation • Explore the structure of storytelling in dramatic form, showing some awareness of audience.
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think clearly about a variety of situations and use drama to make sense of them • Begin to discuss their work and that of others both in and out of role • Understand the difference between pretence and reality within specific contexts • Talk about their choice of voice, movement, gesture, facial expression and appropriateness to character. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Express meaning and attitude through issue-based drama e.g. bullying • Reflect upon the meaning and understanding of their work and that of others, both in and out of role • Discuss their own work and the work of others, showing understanding of different drama forms e.g. the way the story is told, the characters portrayed and the themes depicted • Reflect upon their choice of voice, movement, gesture and facial expression

The statutory requirements for drama in the National Curriculum state,

All pupils should be enabled to participate in and gain knowledge, skills and understanding associated with the artistic practice of drama. Pupils should be able to adopt, create and sustain a range of roles, responding appropriately to others in role. They should have opportunities to improvise, devise and script drama for one another and a range of audiences, as well as to rehearse, refine, share and respond thoughtfully to drama and theatre performances.

At St John’s Drama is explicitly taught in its own right and can also be used as a tool for understanding in subjects across the curriculum. Drama provides many opportunities for children to use heritage languages and knowledge of a range of cultures to experiment with styles of speaking, gesture and mime. Drama is to be taught through all subjects, in order for the children to gain an understanding of the world and others. Additionally, the children will gain understanding through social interaction with each other in the playground, creating games and communicating with each other and finding ways to problem solve.

Impact on Children

Mental Wellbeing	Confidence and Independence	Emotional Intelligence
<p>Under different characters, children can express their true feelings or sense of personality without fear of being judged or criticised. They can work on personal issues or solve personal problems while in character, which can simply help their overall well-being. Allowing children to get things off their mind, further releasing emotion and tension and most importantly gives them a safe space to be who they want to be.</p>	<p>Children who regularly participate in drama based activities throughout their education will have a better understanding how to problem solve and therefore will develop stronger self-confidence and independence. This is due to the children being able to communicate and problem solve, when working together on a drama based activity. Developing their understanding of the world and giving them the tools and confidence for them to become independent.</p>	<p>Increasingly the power of drama is being recognised as one of the most effective ways to develop soft skills and emotional intelligence in children and young people, skills that are often not developed through the traditional education system. Drama promotes communication skills, teamwork, dialogue, negotiation, socialisation. It stimulates the imagination and creativity; it develops a better understanding of human behaviour and empathy with situations that might seem distant. It allows the development of a critical thinking and allows them to make better and more conscious decisions; it encourages them to use their bodies and voices, it encourages and inspires them to say “no”, to stand for and to speak up.</p>