

# ISA Awards 2023 Case Study: Excellence and Innovation in Art and Design



## EATON SQUARE PREP SCHOOL

JUNE 2024



### About the School

Eaton Square School, nestled in the heart of Belgravia, London, offers a unique educational experience designed to nurture the whole child. Their philosophy extends beyond the classroom walls, fostering a love of learning within a calm and positive atmosphere. From the play-based approach in the Nursery years to the strong home-school links, Eaton Square ensures a smooth transition into formal education while prioritising a child's enjoyment and engagement with learning.

Their commitment to educating the whole child encompasses intellectual, artistic, and physical development. Eaton Square instils moral and spiritual values such as perseverance, integrity, and empathy, shaping well-rounded individuals with a strong moral compass. This focus continues through the Eaton Square Prep School, where supportive teachers challenge children while ensuring a secure and nurturing environment. Small class sizes and dedicated staff allow for personalised attention, giving their children a holistic education where they can celebrate personal achievement.

Building a strong foundation for the future is a core aim at Eaton Square. Their curriculum prepares children for selective entrance exams at 11+, but their focus extends beyond academics. As well as a strong emphasis on pastoral care creating a supportive environment where each child can thrive, each child is seen as an individual and equal emphasis is placed on intellectual, artistic, aesthetic, physical and musical pursuits. Eaton Square fosters a sense of community and continuity from Nursery to Prep. Opportunities abound for children to discover their talents and interests through programs like presentations, public speaking, climate change initiatives, and cultural diversity programs. Specialist teaching staff ensure excellent academic standards, while strong pastoral care cultivates a "home from home" feeling for all children.



Trish Watt  
Headmistress



Art and Design is an established and important part of the curriculum at Eaton Square and a dedicated and spacious art studio is available for children to immerse themselves in their lessons. There is a strong focus on developing practical artistic skills that will boost creativity. This is done through a diverse curriculum where artists, designers and craftspeople from around the globe are celebrated.

<https://www.eatonsquareschools.com/nursery-prep/>



## ART AND DESIGN AIMS

- Cultivate critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity by incorporating open-ended projects that encourage children to analyse problems, devise solutions, and express themselves in innovative ways.
- Use Art to elevate academic performance across the curriculum.
- Foster a sense of global citizenship and appreciation for diversity by exposing children to artists from a wide range of backgrounds and ethnicities.
- Nurture creativity, imagination, and sensory exploration through a variety of artistic techniques and mediums.
- Develop teamwork and essential soft skills by incorporating collaborative projects where children learn to communicate effectively, share ideas, and manage conflict constructively.
- Empower children to explore a variety of artistic techniques and mediums by providing them with choice-based learning opportunities.
- Unleash children's unique artistic voices through choice-based learning by encouraging them to explore personal interests and artistic styles.
- Integrate learning in Art with other subjects through the STEAM approach by collaborating with teachers from other disciplines to create interdisciplinary projects.
- Champion artists from diverse backgrounds and promote intercultural understanding and appreciation by actively seeking out and featuring works by artists from various cultures and ethnicities throughout the curriculum.
- Provide opportunities for children to showcase their work and use art to address social issues and inspire positive change by organising school art exhibitions, local community collaborations, or participating in art competitions that focus on social justice themes.
- Offer a safe space for self-expression.



## ART AND DESIGN ACTIONS

- We implemented open-ended projects that required analysis, solution-finding, and innovative expression such as design solutions for community challenges or the reimagining of historical events through Art.
- Collaboration with other teachers to create projects that integrated artistic concepts with subjects like Maths and Science were introduced. These included exploring geometry through tessellation art and depicting the butterfly life cycle through an art installation.
- Works by artists from various backgrounds and ethnicities were integrated into the curriculum, such as celebrating Black History Month or International Women's Day through our art projects.
- Children were provided with access to diverse artistic techniques and tools. These included digital tools alongside traditional painting and sculpting to encourage experimentation with texture, light, and sound.
- We incorporated sensory walks and mindfulness exercises into the Art curriculum to enhance exploration.
- We introduced design projects that required teamwork, communication, the sharing of ideas, and constructive conflict resolution. These included group murals, performances and designing a community garden.
- We offered children a selection of materials and techniques to work with and explore within project themes, allowing them to express themselves in their preferred medium.



- We introduced prompts that would allow for individual interpretation and expression of personal interests and artistic styles.
- We worked closely with other teachers to create projects that would combine artistic concepts with their subjects.
- We invited artists from various cultures and ethnicities to share their experiences and organised trips to museums showcasing diverse artistic traditions.
- We held exhibitions for children to showcase their work within the school and local community and provided opportunities for them to participate in competitions that focused on social justice themes, encouraging children to address social issues.
- We provided access to a qualified art therapist to work with children facing emotional challenges.

## ART AND DESIGN OUTCOMES

- The innovative art program demonstrated inclusivity and supported our aims of fostering well-rounded children with strong artistic skills and social awareness.
- The art program's emphasis on community involvement strengthened the school's connection with the local community through exhibitions and collaborative projects.
- Open-ended projects and problem-solving activities fostered critical thinking skills in children.
- Exposure to diverse techniques and mediums, combined with choice-based learning, nurtured children's creativity and boosted their confidence in self-expression.
- Studying artists from various backgrounds and participating in diversity-themed projects fostered cultural awareness and appreciation for different cultures.
- Collaborative projects and teamwork emphasised within the art program helped children develop essential social skills like communication, collaboration, and conflict resolution.
- Access to art therapy provided children with a safe space to express their emotions and manage challenges, contributing to their overall well-being.



## ART AND DESIGN NEXT STEPS

- Explore further integration of digital art tools and platforms within the curriculum, involving workshops on 3D modelling, animation software, or digital art creation tools.
- Expand community outreach by connecting further with local art institutions, museums, or cultural centres to offer joint workshops or exhibitions to enrich the children's experience and create stronger community connections.
- Offer art therapy services beyond individual child support, involving group therapy sessions or workshops focused on specific themes like social anxiety or managing stress.

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