

ISA Awards 2022 Case Study: Excellence and Innovation in Art and Design

HERNE HILL SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2023



INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION



History of the School

Herne Hill School was established in 1976 as a nursery school but has grown and evolved to meet the needs of its community. The demand from parents led to its expansion in 1986, transforming it into a pre-preparatory school. From its beginnings, the school recognised the value of co-educational learning, fostering an environment where young boys and girls could learn from and alongside each other.

A significant milestone in the school's journey occurred in the summer of 2021 when the kindergarten moved to a new site, meticulously refurbished to cater specifically to 2 and 3 year-olds. This move allowed Herne Hill School to offer an even higher quality of education and solidify its position as a leader in Early Childhood Education.

Under the leadership of Mr. Dominik Magyar, who has overseen the school since 2002, and the Headteacher Ngaire Telford, Herne Hill School has continued to flourish. The school's commitment to excellence is evident in its continuous five-year provision, which leverages research and best practices. The result is a cutting-edge approach to early childhood education that is tailored to develop each child to the fullest of their potential.

One of the school's unique strengths is that it retains a close-knit, family-like atmosphere, allowing children to form deep relationships with the caring and knowledgeable staff.



Ngaire Telford
Headteacher



The school's commitment to holistic development is evident in its emphasis on nurturing the "whole child." Herne Hill School places great importance on social, emotional, and self-regulatory skills. These essential attributes support children to navigate the challenges and seize the opportunities they encounter throughout their time there.

Outdoor learning is a central pillar of the school's approach. With carefully designed naturalistic gardens and wild woodland areas, the school offers children extensive opportunities to engage with the environment. By fostering a love of the outdoors, Herne Hill School aims to instil a lasting appreciation for nature in its students. Additionally, the school places a strong emphasis on sports and the arts, recognising the significant role that these subjects play in a child's growth.

<https://hernehillschool.co.uk/>

AIMS

- To raise the profile of art within the school and connect our year groups through artistic collaborations and events.
- To deliver outstanding, high quality art initiatives that provide extraordinary opportunities for every pupil while building on our strong tradition of teaching fine art.
- To have a summer exhibition each year that showcases artwork by each student.
- To establish an art gallery of students artwork.
- To enthuse the school community about the pleasure that art can bring and build pupil confidence, creativity and imagination.



ACTIONS

- We embarked on a journey to revamp the art curriculum and foster a creative environment.
- Introduced a new art curriculum with a fresh approach to teaching art, expanding learning experiences for pupils.
- Enriched learning through art installations, school-wide collaborative artwork, and the study of contemporary artists.
- Provided new activities like woodwork and outdoor art-making to diversify artistic skills.
- Elevated teaching art in KS1, enabling pupils to develop skills against clear learning objectives.
- Launched "I Pledge," an interactive art installation and 'protest' event inspired by COP26 talks.
- Organized a Summer Exhibition based on the school-wide summer topic 'Into the Blue.'
- Conducted a poster competition for pupils to market the event and allowed them to display their artwork.
- Encouraged imaginative interpretations of topics, fostering originality and creativity.
- Initiated an annual Achievement in Art awards ceremony.
- Established an exciting gallery showcasing pupils' artwork.
- Developed a program to nurture gifted and talented students in art and design.
- Expanded the range of creative after-school clubs to include pottery, film and photography, sewing, and two additional art clubs.
- Provided students with opportunities to explore various artistic disciplines and further their creative interests.





OUTCOMES

Through the implementation of an innovative art curriculum, participation in prestigious art competitions, and the establishment of various art-related initiatives, we successfully enhanced our art education, recognition, and creative engagement among our pupils and whole school community. These efforts have resulted in numerous accolades and enriched the artistic experiences of all pupils across the school, leading to remarkable achievements and recognition in various art competitions.

- Acknowledged at the London South regional ISA art competition, with a pupil winning first prize in the Sketchbook category for EYFS/KS1.
- Raising the profile and importance of art in the school curriculum.
- Boosting pupils' enthusiasm for art and increasing their confidence in their abilities.
- Winning four first prizes in the London South regional ISA art competition in 2022.
- Achieving second place in the national ISA Bee Inspired competition in 2022 with a school-wide collaborative piece.
- Attaining second place in the National ISA art competition in 2021 with a Frank Bowling-inspired collaborative work.



NEXT STEPS

- To continue to look for new and innovative artistic projects that all our pupils can be fully engaged with.
- To investigate ways that our pupils experiences can be enhanced and their artistic excellence celebrated and shared.

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