

Art vocabulary list

Media/Medium Strand Specific Key Vocabulary	EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Drawing	drawing pencils pattern	etching tone	smudge pastels	degree graphite charcoal sketch hardness (6H, 4H, 2H, H, HB, B, 2B, 3B, 4B, 6B, 8B)	portrait features proportion	Movement	illusion realism
Painting	paint thick brush thin brush palette easel	colour wheel water colour paint acrylic paint poster paint handle bristles	Brush types e.g. round, flat, fan?	gradation wash	dry brushing sgraffito		
Collage	cut rip	collage tear	mixed media	ceramic tessellation mosaic		montage coiling overlapping visual qualities tactile qualities	
Sculpture	roll cut	sculpture mould	frameworks wire	nets	mobile kinetic	visual qualities	free-standing



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	air-dry clay paper straws card	carve kiln natural clay			fulcrum axis	tactile qualities embellishment	
Printing	press roll stamp rub	printing glaze mimic				replicate motif symmetry asymmetry reflection rotation	
Textiles	weaving	plaiting dip dye	stitch running stitch basting stitch overcast stitch back stitch needle thread eye				cross stitch
Digital Media			media mixed- media tools line width fill eraser				

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Visual Language key vocabulary – as referred to in Developing Ideas aspect of the skills progression.	EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Space		background foreground	middle ground		perspective		negative space positive space
Texture	rough smooth hard soft	texture scaly furry	glossy matt smudge stippling shading scumbling	functional decorative natural man-made hatching cross- hatching			
Form	3D shape	sphere cube cuboid cylinder cone	height width depth	form			
Value/tone	bright dark	contrast complement	shadow highlights	mid-tone			



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Colour	black white red blue yellow green purple orange	primary secondary complementary contrasting	bright dull warm/hot cool/cold tint tone hue shade		tertiary		
Shape	circle square rectangle triangle	organic shape geometric shape curved circular straight fluid			proportion		dense
Line	straight wavy thin thick	broken zig-zag horizontal vertical	diagonal spiral	parallel			
Pattern	simple dotted repeated	symmetrical overlapped striped irregular	Cross-hatched	Regular tessellation Semi-regular tessellation		Half-drop pattern Drop pattern	

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Responding to Artists/Describing Art	EYFS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
	like dislike real not real	Abstract Realism concentric landscape portrait	Expressionism	Post-impressionism Cubism Surrealism	Aboriginal Impressionism 'en plein air'	Proto-geometric Geometric Black-figure Red-figure	Pop Art