“A nurturing environment where we all learn and aspire together”

“To be the best we can”
The United Nations Convention of Rights of the Child (CRC) is at the heart of our schools planning, policies, practice and ethos. As we work towards becoming a Rights Respecting school as we not only teach about children’s rights, but also model rights and respect in all relationships. Linked to articles 3, 19, 32, 33 (CRC).

The Early Years Curriculum believes that the ‘Arts’ are vital to the curriculum, contributing to all the aspects of learning such as concepts, skills, attitudes and values.

We aim to encourage children to learn to work and respond independently and imaginatively and appreciate the artistic skills and the gifts of others.

**Early years experience will:**

a) Provide a stimulating environment in which creativity, originality and expressiveness are valued.

b) Provide a wide range of activities that children can respond to by using many senses.

c) Ensure sufficient time for children to explore, develop ideas and finish things off.

d) Provide opportunities for children to express their ideas in many different ways.

e) Provide resources from a variety of cultures to stimulate different ways of thinking.

f) Provide opportunities to work alongside artists and other creative adults.

g) Provide opportunities for children who cannot communicate fully using language, to respond to music in different ways.

**Guidelines**

The Arts by their very nature involve children in first hand experience and exploration. The Arts enable children to investigate, explore, create, present, and evaluate.

Since people respond to a variety of stimuli the provision offered should be varied and there should be sufficient time for children to complete the work they have in hand.

All children, regardless of gender, culture, age, ability etc. will have equal access to the creative curriculum.
It will be recognised that each will have a unique artistic response and this will be taken into consideration during the monitoring and assessment process. The children's reflections on their own work will be an integral part of the assessment process.

It needs to be recognised by ALL staff that although children will be supported and encouraged in all that they do at Blair Peach, creative work will NOT be done for them. Teachers will NOT cut things out or paint things for children in any situation.

**Provision will include:**

- Painting area with paint (both ready-mix and powder paint) and a variety of tools to explore a range of painting techniques, crayons (various sizes), charcoal, chalk etc.

- Technology area with a range of equipment to enable children to join two surfaces together (cut, fold, glue, staple) to make a model. A wide variety of different medium must also be provided for children to explore.

- Office area, providing a range of drawing and writing equipment to enable children to set their own agendas and produce their own pieces of work.

- Music area with a range of musical instruments on offer indoors and out, to enable children to explore all aspects of themselves and music, through instruments and dance (in Nursery).

- Home corner and topic role-play area which changes on a regular basis to encourage and extend imaginative play.

- Creative play opportunities in the outdoor environment as well as indoors.

The providers will recognise the Arts are an expression from an individual and there can be no rights or wrongs.