



**LIOSMÓR MOCHUDA NATIONAL SCHOOL**  
*Big Trees from Small Acorns Grow*

# The Arts Education Curriculum

## **The Arts Education Curriculum:**

The curriculum enables children to explore and express ideas, feelings and experiences through music, drama and the visual arts.

The Arts Education curriculum consists of three subjects:

1. Music,
2. Drama and
3. Visual Arts.

### **Aims:**

The aims of arts education are

- to enable the child to explore, clarify and express ideas, feelings and experiences through a range of arts activities
- to provide for aesthetic experiences and to develop aesthetic awareness in the visual arts, in music, in drama, in dance and in literature
- to develop the child's awareness of, sensitivity to and enjoyment of visual, aural, tactile and spatial qualities in the environment
- to enable the child to develop natural abilities and potential, to acquire techniques, and to practise the skills necessary for creative expression and for joyful participation in different art forms
- to enable the child to see and to solve problems creatively through imaginative thinking and so encourage individuality and enterprise
- to value the child's confidence and self-esteem through valuing self-expression
- to foster a sense of excellence in and appreciation of the arts in local, regional, national and global contexts, both past and present
- to foster a critical appreciation of the arts for personal fulfilment and enjoyment.

## **Visual Arts:**

The **Visual Arts** curriculum is for children from junior infants to sixth class. The curriculum consists of six strands:

- Drawing
- Paint and colour
- Print
- Clay
- Construction
- Fabric and Fibre.

The current curriculum was introduced as part of the Primary School Curriculum (1999).

### **Aims:**

The aims of the visual arts curriculum are:

- to help the child develop sensitivity to the visual, spatial and tactile world, and to provide for aesthetic experience
- to help the child express ideas, feelings and experiences in visual and tactile forms
- to enable the child to have enjoyable and purposeful experiences of different art media and to have opportunities to explore, experiment, imagine, design, invent and communicate with different art materials
- to promote the child's understanding of and personal response to the creative processes involved in making two and three-dimensional art
- to enable the child to develop the skills and techniques necessary for expression, inventiveness and individuality
- to enable the child to experience the excitement and fulfilment of creativity and the achievement of potential through art activities
- to foster sensitivity towards and enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts
- to provide opportunities for the child to explore how the work of artists and craftspeople might relate to his/her own work.

## **Drama:**

The **Drama** curriculum is for children from junior infants to sixth class. The curriculum includes one strand that consists of:

- Exploring and making drama
- Reflecting on drama
- Cooperating and communication in making drama.

The current curriculum was introduced as part of the Primary School Curriculum (1999).

### **Aims:**

The aims of the drama curriculum are

- to enable the child to become drama literate
- to enable the child to create a permanent bridge between make-believe play and the art form of theatre
- to develop the child's ability to enter physically, emotionally and intellectually into the drama world in order to promote questing, empowering and empathetic skills
- to enable the child to develop the social skills necessary to engage openly, honestly and playfully with others
- to enable the child to co-operate and communicate with others in solving problems in the drama and through the drama
- to enable the child to understand the structures and modes of drama and how they create links between play, thought and life
- to enable the child to acquire this knowledge of drama through the active exploration of themes drawn from life (past and present), whether they have their source in other curriculum areas or in general areas relevant to the child's life
- to enable the child to begin the process of translating a knowledge of drama into the active exploration of life themes from drama literature, leading to the appreciation of world drama culture
- to form the criteria with which to evaluate the drama texts, written or performed, to which he/she is continually exposed.

## **Music:**

**Music** is for children from junior infants to sixth class. Children are introduced to music reading and writing, to song singing and to playing classroom instruments.

The Music curriculum has three interrelated strands:

- Listening and Responding
- Performing
- Composing.

The current curriculum was introduced as part of the Primary School Curriculum (1999).

### **Aims:**

The aims of the music curriculum are

- to enable the child to enjoy and understand music and to appreciate it critically
- to develop the child's openness to, awareness of and response to a wide range of musical genres, including Irish music
- to develop the child's capacity to express ideas, feelings and experiences through music as an individual and in collaboration with others
- to enable the child to develop his/her musical potential and to experience the excitement and satisfaction of being actively engaged in musical creativity
- to nurture the child's self-esteem and self-confidence through participation in musical performance
- to foster higher-order thinking and lifelong learning through the acquisition of musical knowledge, skills, concepts and values
- to enhance the quality of the child's life through aesthetic musical experience