

## ARTS COLLEGE POLICY

Bishopshalt School is a Specialist School, designated by the DfES as an Arts College, specialising in Music and the Performing Arts. The school was re-designated as an Arts College in 2009. The school has achieved the Artsmark Gold quality mark, which, in addition to covering Music and the Performing Arts, also incorporates Visual Arts). ***Bishopshalt School is an Academy and does not use the discretion afforded to Specialist Schools to admit or select any pupils on the basis of aptitude in the arts.***

### 1 Definition of the Arts

For the purposes of this Policy, the Arts includes both the Performing Arts (Dance, Drama and Music), and the Visual Arts (Art and Design, Photography and Textiles). The school believes that teaching and learning can be enhanced through creativity in lessons across the curriculum, and through active participation in all Arts disciplines. Our aim to be a self-improving school is very much carried forward through the Arts College departments who are constantly striving for new ways to challenge our students with new curriculums, emerging technologies and varied learning experiences. Our interaction with external Arts agencies demonstrates our commitment of our mission statement: 'we provide our children with an outstanding education that fulfils their potential.'

### 2 Arts for All

Bishopshalt School is an inclusive learning community. As such, we are committed to an 'arts for all' policy where all students can benefit from opportunities within the curriculum, and have open access to educational visits, and extra-curricular clubs and activities related to the Arts, irrespective of their individual learning needs.

The school has an equal opportunities policy, and recognises that in excess of 35% of the intake comes from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. Within the broader Arts curriculum we aim to ensure that schemes of work, educational visits, and extra-curricular activities all embrace a wide range of cultural, social, and historical contexts, which bear relevance to the students.

As an Arts College, we believe that involvement in the Arts brings about personal, social, cultural and spiritual enrichment and so educates our pupils in the broadest sense. The departments within the Arts College aim to provide for all students with range of extra-curricular opportunities and Arts activities to as well as within the broader curriculum of the school.

Every attempt is made to deploy the resources arising from Arts College status as widely as possible so that **all** subject areas benefit. We are committed to the principle that irrespective of this initiative, Bishopshalt continues to value the contribution that **all** subjects make to the education, welfare and well being of our pupils.

### 3 Our aims as an Arts College

As a Specialist School we aim to:

1. Offer a broad range of vocational and other courses, particularly in the area of the Arts.
2. Develop close links and partnership programmes with other schools in the area.
3. Develop close links and partnership programmes with the local community.
4. Place an emphasis on the Arts within and across the curriculum and raising standards of achievement in the Arts and across the curriculum.

5. Place an emphasis on the use of Information Technology across the curriculum, and keep up to date with developing technologies in the Arts fields.
6. Place an emphasis on the enterprise culture, including links with business and industry.
7. Develop the qualities of enterprise, self reliance and responsibility to prepare students for adult life, work and the 'life long learning' culture.
8. Incorporate challenging but realistic target setting into all aspects of our work.

#### **4 Our objectives as an Arts College**

As a Specialist School we will meet our aims through:

1. Continuing to provide the full national curriculum and offer additional special opportunities in the Arts, including teaching Art & Design, Drama, Music and Dance to all pupils in KS3. At KS4, students can choose to participate in up to three Arts options subjects, including Art & Design, Dance, Drama, Music, Textiles. At KS5, courses include A Level in Art & Design, Dance, Theatre Studies, Music, Music Technology, Performance Studies,, Photography and Textiles.
2. Providing enhanced arts accommodation, technology and resources.
3. Providing Arts enrichment opportunities including an extensive range of visits out of school and the involvement in school of arts professionals and organisations such as visiting theatre, music and dance companies and 'residencies' working with pupils on special projects.
4. Running an extensive range of extra curricular arts (and other) activities including art & design, dance, drama, music, photography, and textiles, including a very full programme of music, drama and dance productions, and an annual Arts Exhibition.
5. Providing music tuition for all pupils that want it. We offer a varied and comprehensive range of instrumental/vocal lessons and also have a working relationship with the Hillingdon Music Service. We are able to offer instrumental tuition at a reduced rate to families in receipt of benefits.
6. Having an ongoing and phased plan for the development of ICT to enable all subjects to make good use of ICT in the Arts, and to enable pupils and their parents to learn ICT skills.
7. Having an extensive programme of links with other schools to share our expertise and resources and support development, delivery, training and resourcing for the Arts locally within the community. This includes working with local primary partnership schools, our secondary partnership special school, and offering places on Sixth Form Arts courses to students from other local secondary schools.
8. Having an extensive programme of links with local community Arts groups and organisations and making school premises and resources available out of school hours on a Lettings basis seven days a week. The purpose of this is in part to support the Arts locally but also to offer our able and/or committed performing arts pupils the opportunity to undertake extension activities.

#### **6 Implementation, monitoring and review of the Arts College Policy**

In order to maintain our specialist ethos the school is committed to reviewing progress and development within the arts to ensure our high standards and outcome are maintained. The Governors monitor this progress on a termly basis. A Link Governor works closely with the Arts College Manager. The school successfully reapplied for Artsmark in 2012, once again achieving Gold standard. Artsmark is reapplied for every four years.

We retain a commitment to the performing Art at Bishopshalt School.