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Cultural Capital and Contextual knowledge

Cultural capital can be defined as the skills and knowledge which an individual can draw on to give them an advantage in social life.

Providing a rich art curriculum and environment for learning can give access to a deeper appreciation of socio, cultural and political understanding of the world we live in. The arts can enable pupils to examine artists' purpose and intention in their creativity in the current living world and historically by accessing art work in books, online, galleries, museums and visits to artists' studios and workplaces.

An appreciation of the creative industries and the work of artists, crafts makers, designers and architects can provide a rich contextual knowledge to draw on and inspire personal thinking and self-expression.

As a minimum each art project in any classroom will benefit from five facts about an artist, crafts maker, designer, architect related to the topic to stimulate ideas and to provide an opportunity to compare and contrast them as artists and their art work.

External factors and parental engagement

Providing opportunities for extending learning and for invitation to involve parental support can enrich learning for disadvantaged pupils and empower them to have increased ownership and motivation.

Some ideas:

- enrichment opportunities
- support with resources
- extension tasks – home learning
- parents evening (text/email/phone calls)
- parental support for looked-after children/direct link to home.

Art

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