

Curriculum Intent: Project Based Learning - Challenge Me Key Stage 3 2025 - 2026

At Compass School, the Challenge Me curriculum aims to equip pupils with the creativity, knowledge, and skills to thrive in an ever-evolving technological world. We believe that Challenge Me plays a vital role in:

- Nurturing problem-solvers and innovators: By engaging in design challenges and projects, pupils develop critical thinking skills to identify needs, explore solutions, and create functional products.
- Empowering informed consumers: Pupils gain a deeper understanding of design processes, materials, and technologies, enabling them to make informed choices as consumers and future citizens.
- Developing practical and technical skills: Through hands-on experiences using a variety of tools and equipment, pupils build essential practical skills and gain confidence in working with different materials.
- Fostering collaboration and communication: Project work encourages teamwork, communication, and collaboration, preparing pupils for success in future careers and life in general.
- Promoting creativity and self-expression: Pupils explore their creativity through design thinking and problem-solving, allowing them to express themselves through the products they create.

We are committed to providing a stimulating learning environment that fosters a growth mindset, where pupils are encouraged to experiment, learn from mistakes, and take pride in their achievements. Our curriculum is designed to be relevant and engaging, incorporating real-world contexts and industry trends to spark pupil interest and equip them with the skills they need to be successful in the 21st century.

By the end of KS3 pupils are expected to have a foundation knowledge in craft, art and design techniques. This includes a basic knowledge of materials, tools, recording observations, health and safety procedures as well as analysis and evaluation of their and others work to strengthen the visual impact.

Skills and Knowledge Key Stage 3

Every half-term, we ensure that our pupils have cross-curricular (Cc) opportunities and cover Social, Moral, Spiritual, and Cultural (SMSC) elements.

These are detailed below using the following codes, enabling us to track what is delivered in each subject:

Cross Curricular Links include M (Maths), Eng (English), Sc (Science), PS (PSHE), FT (Food Tech), CR (Craft), AD (Art & Design), C (Computing), G (Geography), H (History), En (Engineering), R (Reading), Ec (Economics)

SMSC Links include B (British Values), Sp (Spiritual aspects), M (Moral aspects), So (Social aspects), C (Cultural aspects), R (Religious aspects), Rel (Relationships), P (Prevent), E (E-Safety), I (Individual Advice & Guidance & Careers),
(Healthy Lifestyle including wellbeing)

Key Stage 3 Topics

Key Stage 3 Skills

Key Stage 3 Knowledge

Brilliant Britain – Exploring art in Southampton

Collage project – ‘What Southampton means to me’

Colour theory project- Southampton Street art influenced by Kev Munday

Mosaic project – manufacturing a mosaic influenced by Southampton artist Mr Mosaic (Will Rosie)

Clay Project- Winkle Street faces influenced by artist J-Ace

SMSC - B, Sp, M, So, C

CC - M, Cr, AD, G

Use of different materials, techniques, colours and textures to design and make a collage.
Creating and working with colour wheels and colour schemes.
Researching artists and using art techniques to influence own work.
Creating art/craft designs to use in own work.
Use of terrasse tiles to create mosaic pixel art.
Clay modelling techniques
Work safely with tools and equipment
Reviewing the creative process

To understand how to combine a range of techniques and materials to create a collage.
To understand colour theory.
To understand how to use colour theory in creating pieces of Art.
To understand how to research artists work and use this research to influence own work.
To be aware of key words to describe and analyse artwork.
To understand the use of three-dimensional form to design a clay model.
To understand and use basic mosaic techniques.
To understand and apply basic clay modelling techniques
To have an understanding of health and safety requirements
To abide by the health and safety requirements.
To understand how and why we review the creative process.

Key Stage 3 Topics

Key Stage 3 Skills

Key Stage 3 Knowledge

History- Make do and mend

Exploring sewing project- Basic sewing stitches & sewing machine skills.

DIY advent calendar project- Advent calendars manufactured from reclaimed materials.

Log reindeer project- Reclaimed log reindeer sculptures.

SMSC - B, Sp, M, So, C, R

CC - M, CR, AD

Hand sewing a range of common stiches.
Using a needle and thread safely
Applying a range of stitch types & embellishments
Basic Machine sewing machine skills
Designing & planning a creative project
Selecting and working with a range of reclaimed materials.
Measuring & marking
Selecting appropriate tools and materials.
Working effectively and safely with hand tools.
Obtaining good quality finishes.
Application of paints.
Reviewing project outcomes

To understand how to produce a range of common stitch types
To understand how to apply a range of stich types and embellishments
To understand basic functions of a sewing machine
To understand how to select and use a range of reclaimed materials
To understanding how to accurately measure and mark materials
To understand how to work effectively and safely with hand tools
To understand the role of basic wood joints and how to manufacture them.
To understand how and why we ‘finish’ timber projects
To understand how and why we review the creative process.

Key Stage 3 Topics

Key Stage 3 Skills

Key Stage 3 Knowledge

HT3	<p align="center">Continent study -European Art and Craft</p> <p align="center">Print project – Block print art inspired by Matisse</p> <p align="center">Collage project – Self-portraits influenced by Cubism and Picasso</p> <p align="center">Wooden Toy project – Scandinavian moving wooden toys decorated in the traditional style of Rosemaling.</p> <p align="center">Architecture project -3D cardboard structures inspired by Gaudi's towers</p> <p align="center">SMSC - Sp, So, C, R</p> <p align="center">CC - M, CR, AD, G, H, En</p>	<p align="center">Use of different materials, techniques, colours and textures to design and make a collage</p> <p align="center">Researching artists and using art techniques to influence own work.</p> <p align="center">Creating art/craft designs to use in own work</p> <p align="center">Selecting appropriate tools and materials to manufacture a print block and produce a mono print.</p> <p align="center">Using techniques to create different print effects</p> <p align="center">Using colour theory to visually communicate design in print</p> <p align="center">Developing and designing 3D Sculpture</p> <p align="center">Developing and designing a wooden toy</p> <p align="center">Stencilling onto wooden projects</p> <p align="center">Utilising a range of recycled materials.</p> <p align="center">Assembly methods</p> <p align="center">Application of paint finishes</p> <p align="center">Working safely with tools and equipment</p>	<p align="center">To understand how to research artists work and use this research to influence own work</p> <p align="center">To be aware of key words to describe and analyse artwork</p> <p align="center">To be aware of how to use different materials, techniques, colours and textures to design and make a collage</p> <p align="center">Understanding why and how to use composition when creating a piece of art</p> <p align="center">Identifying what is a monoprint and how can they be made</p> <p align="center">Understand how visual elements can be effectively used to create a print</p> <p align="center">To have knowledge of recycled materials and how to manipulate them.</p> <p align="center">To understand how to construct a 3D sculpture</p> <p align="center">To understand the stencilling techniques of stippling and swirling to create designs on wooden projects.</p> <p align="center">To know how to work safely with tools and materials</p> <p align="center">To understand how to obtain good quality finishes in a creative project</p> <p align="center">To understand how and why we review the creative process</p>
	<p align="center">Key Stage 3 Topics</p>	<p align="center">Key Stage 3 Skills</p>	<p align="center">Key Stage 3 Knowledge</p>
HT4	<p align="center">Sustainability – Recycled and sustainable elements in creative work</p> <p align="center">Solar power project - Polystyrene and solar powered moving boats</p> <p align="center">Recycled material project- Windchimes constructed from recycled materials</p> <p align="center">SMSC - Sp, So, C</p> <p align="center">CC - M, Sc, CR, AD, C, En</p>	<p align="center">Designing & planning a design project using renewable energy</p> <p align="center">Using a range of sustainable and recycled materials with suitable properties</p> <p align="center">Measuring & marking</p> <p align="center">Selecting appropriate tools and materials</p> <p align="center">Working safely & effectively with tools and materials</p> <p align="center">Obtaining good quality finishes</p> <p align="center">Application of paints</p> <p align="center">Reviewing project outcomes</p>	<p align="center">To understand how to design and plan a creative project</p> <p align="center">To understand the terms renewable and sustainability</p> <p align="center">To understand the basic concepts of forces such as gravity, upthrust and friction</p> <p align="center">To understand what is a reclaimed or recycled material and how to use them in a creative project</p> <p align="center">To understanding how to accurately measure and mark materials</p> <p align="center">To understand how to work effectively and safely with hand tools</p> <p align="center">To understand how to obtain good quality finishes in a creative project</p> <p align="center">To understand how and why we review the creative process</p>
	<p align="center">Key Stage 3 Topics</p>	<p align="center">Key Stage 3 Skills</p>	<p align="center">Key Stage 3 Knowledge</p>
HT5	<p align="center">The Environment – Rainforests</p> <p align="center">Diorama project – 3D rainforest dioramas</p> <p align="center">Planter project – Wooden planters with rainforest designs</p> <p align="center">SMSC - M, So, C</p> <p align="center">CC - M, Sc, CR, AD, G</p>	<p align="center">Designing & planning.</p> <p align="center">Producing 3D art work using a range of materials, techniques, dimensions and space.</p> <p align="center">Measuring & marking.</p> <p align="center">Selecting appropriate tools and materials.</p> <p align="center">Working effectively and safely with hand tools.</p> <p align="center">Manufacturing simple wood joints.</p> <p align="center">Obtaining good quality finishes.</p> <p align="center">Application of paints.</p> <p align="center">Reviewing project outcomes</p>	<p align="center">To understand how to design and plan a creative project</p> <p align="center">To understand elements of 3D design such as dimension and space</p> <p align="center">To understanding how to accurately measure and mark materials</p> <p align="center">To understand how to work effectively and safely with hand tools.</p> <p align="center">To understand the role of basic wood joints and how to manufacture them</p> <p align="center">To understand how and why we 'finish' timber projects. To understand what mediums are suitable for 'finishing' timber projects</p> <p align="center">To understand how and why we review the creative process</p>
	<p align="center">Key Stage 3 Topics</p>	<p align="center">Key Stage 3 Skills</p>	<p align="center">Key Stage 3 Knowledge</p>
HT6	<p align="center">Art from Around the World</p> <p align="center">African Block print project- Adinkra fabric prints</p> <p align="center">Aboriginal art project - Dream time art MDF boomerang</p> <p align="center">Resist dye project– Tie Dye T-shirt</p> <p align="center">Mexican sculpture project- Día de los Muertos - papier mâché skulls</p> <p align="center">SMSC - Sp, So, C, R</p> <p align="center">CC - CR, AD, G</p>	<p align="center">Designing & planning</p> <p align="center">Measuring & marking</p> <p align="center">Selecting appropriate tools and materials</p> <p align="center">Cutting & shaping</p> <p align="center">Tying and folding fabrics</p> <p align="center">Block Printing</p> <p align="center">3D Sculpture</p> <p align="center">Obtaining good quality finishes</p> <p align="center">Application of dyes</p> <p align="center">Application of paints</p> <p align="center">Using colour to visually communicate design</p> <p align="center">Reviewing project outcomes</p>	<p align="center">To understand elements of African, Aboriginal, Indian and Mexican culture</p> <p align="center">To understanding how art is created by printmaking</p> <p align="center">To understand manipulate MDF to create a boomerang shape</p> <p align="center">To understand how to tie and fold fabrics to create patterns and designs using dyes</p> <p align="center">To understand how to manipulate paper mâché to create a 3D sculpture</p> <p align="center">To understand how colour can be effectively used in creative projects</p> <p align="center">To understand how to achieve quality finishes in creative projects</p> <p align="center">To understand how to review the creative process</p>