



Art Glossary

There are seven elements of art that children should be exposed to and have had the opportunity to develop. The visual components of: **Line, colour, shape, texture, form, space** and **value**. These can be broken into different skills set out on our school 'Progression of Skills' overview for Art and Design.

Line

Lines are marks that span a distance between two points. A line has a width, length and a direction. The width of a line is normally called its 'thickness'. Lines are sometimes called 'strokes'.

Colour

Colour is the element of art that is produced when light, striking an object, is reflected back to the eye. There are three properties to colour:

Hue: the name we give to a colour (red, yellow, blue, green, etc.).

Intensity: the vividness of the colour. A colour's intensity is sometimes referred to as its "colourfulness", "saturation" or its "strength".

Value: how light or dark it is. The terms 'shade' and 'tint' refer to value changes in colours. In painting, shades are created by adding black to a colour, while tints are created by adding white to a colour.

Shape

Shape refers to a 2D, enclosed area. Shapes can be geometric such as squares, circles, triangles etc. or organic that are similar to those found in nature such as plants and rocks.

Texture

Texture is used to describe how something feels or looks, for example; smooth, bumpy, hard, light, rough.

Form

The form of a work is its shape, including its volume or perceived volume. A three-dimensional piece of artwork has depth as well as width and height. Three-dimensional form is the basis of sculpture. However, two-dimensional artwork can achieve the illusion of form with the use of perspective and/or shading or modelling techniques.

Space

Space is any area that an artist provides for a particular purpose. Space includes the background, foreground and middle ground, and refers to the distances or area around, between, and within things. There are two kinds of space: negative space and positive space. Negative space is the area in between, around, through or within an object. Positive spaces are the areas that are occupied by an object and/or form

Value

Value is the degree of lightness and darkness in a colour. The difference in values is called **contrast**. Value can relate to shades, where a colour gets darker by adding black to it (**shade**), or **tints**, where a colour gets lighter by adding white to it.