

Art– Guidelines for Scholastic Year 2021-2022

Year 1-6 (Primary Schools)

Art teachers are being advised to follow this document for guidance in Art-related curricular aspects during the upcoming scholastic year.

Due to the current exceptional circumstances these guidelines have been steered by the three scenarios that MEDE has set for its directorates, namely:

Scenario 1: Conditional re-opening on September with social distancing measures in place, in stages.

Scenario 2: Opening of schools on September with all students in class.

Scenario 3: Re-opening of schools in January 2022 or later.

Your Schemes of Work (SOW) need to be adapted to address each of these scenarios, bearing in mind the resources available and the priority of everyone's health and safety. The following are suggested guidelines:

In case of Virtual Lessons:

Materials: Teachers need to keep in mind that not all students have certain materials (paints/clay) at home. When students inform that they require financial support to buy basic materials (sheets of paper/ pencils/ pencil- colours/ markers/ glue/ safe scissors/rulers/ erasers/), it is important to liaise with the school SMT.

Adaptation to students' needs and situations at home: Lessons need to be adapted to the students' needs and also to allow the use of several materials.

Live lessons: Live lessons are to include sharing of screen through images/videos/ demonstrations and interaction with students as much as required. These digital resources or recorded lessons are sent to students, so they can review the lesson and create art at their own pace.

Allow time for creative process: It is advisable that teachers allow two weeks for students to complete their creative process.

Art Journals and Portfolios: Students are to send images of their creative process (e.g. research on art journal/ sketchbook) and artworks. These are to be saved in students' individual folders as digital portfolios for assessment purposes.

Self and Peer-Evaluation: Time for tutorial is to be included in the lesson so that students can share, talk about their creative process and receive feedback with suggestions from each other. Students are asked to take turns (they may share screen) to talk about their art in progress and/or challenges.

In case of Lessons at school:

Verbal Communication: For discussion of history/ criticism/ appreciation of projected images of art and evaluation of their own artworks, students take turns to talk, show and share their research/ ideas/ questions through their art journals/ sketchbooks. Students are to remain in their place (distanced according to health authorities) seated or standing up.

Practical Work

Materials: Students are required to bring their own materials e.g.: pencils/ pencil colours/ paintbrushes/ markers/ glue/ safe scissors/ crayons/ pastels/ rulers/ erasers/ palettes/ recycled materials/ drawing-book/ art journal. No sharing of such materials can be allowed. Materials that are only used within a lesson time-frame, such as paints can be provided to students, pouring it on palettes that they bring and clean up afterwards. When students inform that they require financial support to buy basic materials (sheets of paper/ pencils/ pencil- colours/ markers/ glue/ safe scissors/rulers/ erasers/), it is important to liaise with the school SMT.

Cleaning: Stop students approx. 15 minutes before the end of lesson and lead students to take single-turns at the sink. They need to wipe hands and palettes in their own towels/ old T-shirt. Often, students take initiative to bring their own wipes/ sanitizer.

Collaborative work: Unfortunately collaborative work, such as group work or pair work on the same artwork, is to be avoided.

Monitoring students' work: Have a look at students' work in progress from a distance (as suggested by health authorities).

Self and Peer-Evaluation: You can ask students to stand up, show their sketches/artwork (unless it is dripping!) and to talk about their work-in progress (self-evaluation). You can ask the rest to remain seated and take turns to suggest feedback (peer-evaluation).

Art Journals and Portfolios: Only artworks that need to dry are left in the art room. Students collect finished dried artworks in their Portfolios and Art Journals.

Sharing Art Teaching Resources:

It is highly recommended that Art teachers keep providing support to each other. One way of doing this is by sharing and adapting from teaching resources (power-points, video-links, quizzes, games, terminology, etc.) that have been and will continue to be uploaded on the common repository, linked as: https://curriculum.gov.mt/en/digital_resources/Pages/Art-Resources.aspx