

Thinking Like an Artist

Artists notice things that other people might walk past. They use their eyes, imagination, and curiosity to explore the world. Thinking like an artist means slowing down, looking closely, and letting ideas grow.



Observation

- **Notice details:** Artists look carefully at shapes, colours, patterns, and textures.
- **See things from new angles:** They move around, zoom in, or step back to fully see their subject.
- **Spot beauty in the ordinary:** Even everyday objects can inspire artwork.

Imagination

- **Let ideas wander:** Artists allow their minds to explore possibilities.
- **Create new content:** Artists imagine people, animals and places and put them to paper
- **Turn thoughts and feelings into pictures:** Inner thoughts become sketches, colours, or shapes.

Experimentation

- **Try new materials:** Artists explore pens, pencils, paint, clay, collage, and more.
- **Make mistakes on purpose:** They know mistakes can lead to exciting discoveries.
- **Play with techniques:** Smudging, splattering, layering, rubbing, printing.

Reflection

- **Think about what works:** Artists look at their work and notice what they like.
- **Ask questions:** “What if I change this colour?” “What happens if I add texture?”
- **Learn from each attempt:** Every drawing or sculpture teaches something new.

Expression

- **Show feelings through art:** Colours, lines, and shapes can express emotions.
- **Share ideas with others:** Art helps communicate thoughts without words.
- **Find their own style:** Artists discover what makes their work unique.

Encouraging Artist Thinking in the Classroom

- **Give time to explore:** Artists need space to play and discover.
- **Celebrate effort, not perfection:** Every attempt is part of the journey.
- **Use sketchbooks as thinking spaces:** A place for ideas, notes, doodles, and experiments.
- **Talk about art together:** Share what you notice, wonder, and feel.

A Final Thought

Thinking like an artist is not about being “good at drawing”; it’s about being curious, brave, playful, and open to new ideas. We value the process of making art over the outcome. Every child can think like an artist because every child can explore, imagine, and create.