Teaching for Creativity at Stoneham Park Primary Academy

At **Stoneham Park Primary Academy**, creativity is central to our curriculum and our vision for every child. We believe that creativity is not an add-on, but a vital way of thinking that enables children to become confident, resilient and adaptable learners. Through our work with the **Arts Council Halterworth Creativity Collaborative**, we are committed to developing a **research-informed approach to teaching for creativity** that has a lasting impact on pupils' learning and life chances.

STONEHAM PARK
PRIMARY ACADEMY

A Research-Informed Approach to Creative Learning

Working alongside the Halterworth Creativity Collaborative has supported us in embedding best practice and national research into our everyday teaching. This partnership has strengthened our understanding of how creativity can be deliberately taught, nurtured and assessed across the curriculum, rather than being confined to individual subjects or special projects.

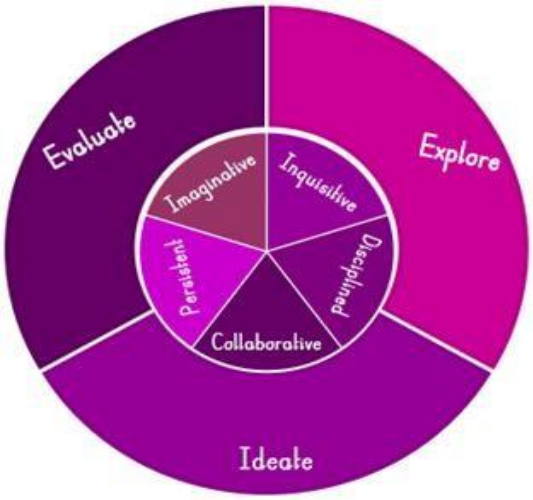
Our teachers design learning experiences that are purposeful, inclusive and grounded in current educational research. This ensures that creativity at Stoneham Park is intentional and meaningful, enabling pupils to think deeply, make connections and apply their learning in innovative ways.

Open-Ended Opportunities for All Learners

We provide **open-ended learning opportunities** that encourage children to explore, take risks and think creatively. Pupils are given the time and space to generate ideas, test solutions and reflect on outcomes, understanding that there is often more than one possible answer.

Through these opportunities, children develop confidence in their own thinking, learn to value different perspectives and become comfortable with uncertainty. This approach supports all learners to engage at an appropriate level, encouraging independence, curiosity and a love of learning.

The Metacognitive Wheel: Explore, Ideate, Evaluate



Our teaching and learning are shaped by the **metacognitive wheel**, which underpins our creative approach across the school. Pupils are explicitly taught to:

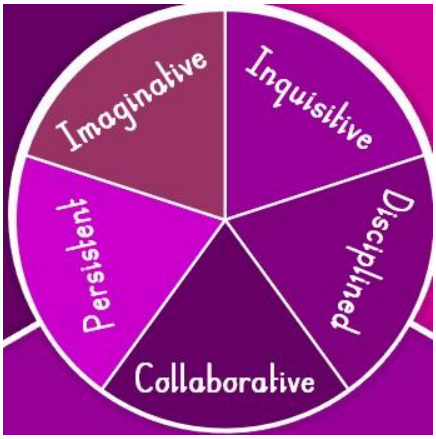
- **Explore** – ask questions, investigate ideas and make connections
- **Ideate** – generate, develop and refine ideas
- **Evaluate** – reflect on processes, outcomes and next steps

This structure helps pupils to understand *how* they learn, empowering them to take ownership of their thinking and make informed decisions about their learning strategies.

Developing Creative Habits

Threaded through the metacognitive wheel are our **creative habits**, which are explicitly modelled, taught and celebrated. These habits are shared and recognised weekly in assembly, helping pupils to see creativity as a mindset rather than a fixed ability.

By celebrating creative thinking, perseverance and reflection, we build a school culture where effort, experimentation and originality are valued.



Preparing Learners for Life

Our ultimate aim is to nurture **highly critical thinkers** who can solve problems, adapt to new challenges and work creatively with others. The skills developed through creative learning— such as collaboration, communication, resilience and critical thinking— equip our pupils for future learning and life beyond the classroom.

At Stoneham Park Primary Academy, we are proud to be developing creative thinkers who are confident, reflective and ready to shape their world.