

Drama | Curriculum Map



Co-op Academy
Florence MacWilliams

Curriculum | Intent

The Drama curriculum at Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams empowers students to transform from novices within the discipline to subject experts. It is centred on the PACE principles, which are the cornerstones of the curriculum.

Students are encouraged to take pride and personal ownership in their artistic work. We empower learners to take pride in their individual contributions and performances, acknowledging the courage it takes to present to others. By presenting their work through regular classroom showcases, our students build their self-worth and confidence. Simultaneously, students develop collective pride through their ensemble work, learning to value the shared creative process and understanding that drama is only successful when a company works with each other.

The curriculum is ambitious, deliberately going beyond what is expected from the National Curriculum to challenge our students as performers. Students will understand key dramatic techniques, consider the different elements of performance, tackle the ideas of drama practitioners such as Brecht and Stanislavski and look beyond the actor to the different roles within a theatre company. By having such ambition, we will ensure that students finish their time studying Drama at Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams as masters of the craft.

The subject is built upon having an inclusive and caring environment. We explicitly cultivate a culture of mutual respect and trust, allowing students to confidently take creative and emotional risks. Students will actively participate in practical lessons, receive constructive feedback from both their teachers and peers, and will have the opportunity to use said feedback to develop and grow as performers. The curriculum also allows students to care about the world around them, with students being provided with a range of stimuli for performance which will deal with global issues and ask them to reflect and question the world around them.

Excellence is built into all areas of the Drama curriculum. We expose students to high-quality performances and advanced concepts to demonstrate to them what is artistically possible. We embed academic oracy throughout the subject, with students being given ample opportunities to incorporate tier-three vocabulary within their written work. Excellence is also seen through students' practical work, with students being able to rehearse, develop and perfect their performances.

Alongside the subject-specific knowledge and skills developed, students will also develop transferable skills. From collaborating with others, creativity, problem-solving, and being intellectually curious about the world around them, the Drama curriculum at Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams will provide students with the knowledge and skills to flourish in any future endeavours.

Laying the Foundations

The first term in Drama will focus on introducing students to the foundational theatrical techniques. Students will be introduced to techniques such as tableau, freeze frames, mime, thought-tracking, narration, montage, flashbacks and marking the moment. Students will understand the theory behind these techniques and the impact they have on an audience. They will also be able to practice using these techniques as part of devising performances in response to a range of stimuli.

Throughout the term, students will gain confidence performing, learn how to give and receive constructive feedback in a nurtured, supportive environment that celebrates creative risk-taking.

Elements of Performance

Having developed a foundational understanding of drama techniques, the second term in Drama will allow students to understand how a written play script is transformed into a live performance. In the first half-term, students will develop an understanding of stage space, how an actor can communicate to the audience through their physicality and how an actor's voice can be used to convey character. During the second half-term, students will be introduced to drama practitioners such as Stanislavski, Brecht and Frantic Assembly. By doing this, students will understand the difference between a script and a performance, alongside gaining insight into how professional actors think, create and communicate to an audience.

Theatre Production

Having understood what the role of the actor entails, students will use the summer term to explore how a full theatre production is brought to life. By studying an entire play, students will investigate the range of roles within a professional theatre company and discover how different creative departments collaborate to create meaning on a stage. Students will have the opportunity to work as costume designers, set designers, prop makers and directors. This will culminate in students collaborating to produce a performance inspired by the play they have studied, in which they consider all aspects of performance.

Marketing and Advertising Executive: Relies on understanding how to grab the audience's attention by marking a moment.

Drama Therapist: Uses techniques like thought-tracking, role-play, and tableaux to help clients explore complex emotions and past experiences safely.

Theatre Director: Uses the theories of Brecht and Stanislavski to shape a performance.

Barrister/Lawyer: Uses physicality and voice to communicate to an audience to persuade them of an argument.

Stage Manager: Responsible for coordinating different departments within a theatre company to create an overall performance.

Events Manager: Manages creative coordination from different departments to put on events such as



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At Co-op Academy Florence MacWilliams, colleagues and pupils work at 'PACE' ensuring pride, ambition, care, and excellence for self, school and city