

Why do schools visit the MAC galleries?

A visit to the MAC galleries meets key Art and Design curriculum **aims** by giving students first-hand opportunities to:

- Investigate a range of art and design approaches by different artists.
- Explore a wide range of media and materials in two and three dimensions.
- Listen to, observe, develop and use visual and verbal vocabulary.
- Develop and refine ideas through primary source investigations and enable them to demonstrate analytical and critical understanding.
- Record ideas, observations and insights.
- Be inspired to apply art and design techniques and processes creatively to produce their own outcomes.

A visit to the MAC Galleries meets key curriculum **objectives** by providing students with **first-hand observational opportunities and primary sources** from which to compare and contrast, develop the Knowledge & understanding, creative processes and core skills which are outlined below:

Students can...

Deepen Knowledge and understanding

- Learn how contemporary artists express themselves through the art exhibited in MAC exhibitions helping students to justify their own ideas and developing an understanding of the context of their own work.
- Observe and collect information from primary sources and make meaningful connections to the work of artists and subsequently apply this in their own practical work and experiments.
- Analyse and evaluate the work of artists and learning to use complex art vocabulary.
- Experience how primary sources inspire the development of ideas and help to analyse the approaches of contemporary artists and compare historical contexts.

Observe and explore creative processes

- Observe different artistic media, techniques and processes to explore potential lines of enquiry.
- Generate ideas, connections and visual enquiry using arts based media, techniques and processes.
- Select, organise and communicate ideas in note books or sketch books.

Develop core skills

- Record first-hand ideas, observations, insights and independent judgements, visually and through written annotation in notebooks or sketch books.
- Use drawing to record, communicate and visualise intentions, ideas and responses.
- Explore, analyse, discuss and evaluate images, objects and artefacts from primary source.
- Make meaningful connections between their own work and the work of exhibiting artists.
- Use knowledge and understanding of the work of exhibiting artists, to develop and extend their own thinking and inform their own work.
- Evaluate their own progress and refine their own work.

- Develop an understanding of relevant practices in the creative and cultural industries and apply this to their work.

A visit to the MAC Galleries...

- Will help support and inspire students to gather evidence from source by recording and express their ideas using the various methods below.
 - Sketch books.
 - Photographs.
 - Written evidence.
 - Audio-visual recordings.
- Presents a great opportunity to work in a cross-curricular capacity, approaching a broad selection of themes and ideas, many of which may directly impact upon young people's lives and experiences. This exhibition supports learning across the curriculum and can offer huge opportunities to inspire pupils across subject areas including
 - Art and Design
 - Design and Technology
 - History
 - Literacy
 - Citizenship

Preparation before you visit

The pack suggests discussion activities that could take place in the classroom as a preparation for visiting the gallery, and we recommend that you use some of these ideas to prepare for your group visit.

We have included a few links in this resource, but there are many more possibilities and we would be happy to discuss your ideas, and how we can support your visit.

We recommend that teachers make a preparatory visit to experience the exhibition for themselves before bringing a group.

This pack is primarily designed to facilitate teaching **key stages 3 and 4**, although activities can be adapted to suit all ages –

Ideas, suggestions for discussion and activities for all MAC Teachers Gallery Packs are informed by and correlate with national curriculum requirements.