

Paintings of Children

Year 1

Through looking at paintings of children, this unit explores how art, and in particular paintings by Hogarth, Cassatt and Bruegel the Elder, give us information about the past. The Graham Children by Hogarth provides a focus for the whole unit. The children consider the hidden messages that the group portrait conveys as well as investigating how the painting shows the difference of the lives of the Graham children in comparison to their own. Copying small sections of the painting allow the children to consider how to work from close observation, planning where lines and colours should go, colour-matching and using watercolours with different sized brushes. The children use photographs of themselves to explore the poses the children hold in the portrait, which they use at the end of the unit to reinvent the portrait in a modern way, based on the cubist photo collages of Hockney. Studying Children's Games by Bruegel allows the children to investigate further different physical poses by producing quick sketches of a manikin in different positions. This skill is revisited in the unit which follows on sculpture.