

Key Stage 3: Knowledge Organiser		Topic: The Book of Kells c. 800AD	Year: 7
		Time Period: Middle Ages/Medieval (500 – 1500AD)	
LEARNING JOURNEY	Inspiration & Influences	The Book of Kells: created in 800AD is one of the world's most famous and oldest books. It contains the four Gospels in Latin and is written on vellum. The book was written by monks at a monastery in Kells, Ireland. The manuscript is well-known largely due to its lavish decoration. Abstract patterns and images of plants, animals and human figures add to the Gospels with the aim of glorifying Jesus' life and keeping his stories in the eye of the reader. The Book of Kells is housed at the Trinity College Library, Dublin.	
	Observational Studies	You will produce a selection of initial observational studies, taking influence from original the Book of Kells. You will explore a variety of formal drawing exercises using inks, paints and pencils.	
	Explore & Create	You will explore line, shape, colour and pattern. You will develop ideas through calligraphy and the use of illuminated letters, typography and explore design ideas of swirling motifs, figures of humans, animals and mythical beasts.	



Key Words Glossary		Formal Elements Covered
Manuscript	A book, document or piece of music written by hand rather than typed or printed.	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Line: the path left by a moving point. For example, a pencil, a stick or a paintbrush dipped in paint.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Shape: the area enclosed by a line. It could be just an outline or it could be shaded in. Shapes can be geometric, like a circle or triangle, or irregular</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Colour: is a very important element. Colour is created by light and is broken down into three properties: hue, value and intensity. The colour wheel is an important tool in Art & Design.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Pattern: a design that is created by repeating lines, shapes, tones or colours. Patterns can be man-made, like the design printed/woven onto a fabric, or could be completely natural i.e. the markings on animal fur.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Form: is a three dimensional shape, such as a cube, sphere or cone. Sculpture and three-dimensional design are about creating form. In two-dimensional artwork tone and perspective can be used to create the illusion of form.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Tone: refers to how light or dark something is. This could be a shade or how dark or light a colour appears. Tones are created by the way light falls onto a 3D object. Light areas are highlights, whereas darker areas are shadows.</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Texture: relates to the surface quality – the way something feels or looks like it feels. Actual texture can be created by changing the surface of a canvas, for example, whilst visual texture is created by using marks to represent a particular surface.</div>
Gospel	The record of Jesus Christ's life and teachings in the first four books of the New Testament.	
The New Testament	The second part of the Christian Bible which records the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and his earliest followers. The New Testament includes the four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, twenty-one Epistles by St. Paul and others and the book of Revelation.	
Calligraphy	The art of producing decorative handwriting or lettering with a pen or brush.	
Illustration	A drawing or picture that features in a book, newspaper etc.	
Iconography	The visual images and symbols used in a work of art or the study or interpretation of these.	
Motif	A decorative image or design, especially a repeated one that forms a pattern.	
Insular Art	Relating to a form of artwork and/or Latin handwriting used in Britain and Ireland in the early Middle Ages.	
Celtic Knot	A variety of knots and stylised graphical representations of knots used for decoration. Celtic knots were extensively used in the Celtic style of Insular Art.	
Vellum	Fine parchment that was originally made from the skin of a calf.	
Monastery	A building occupied by a community of monks living under religious vows.	
Decorative	The purpose of making something look more attractive or ornamental. Something that is highly decorated.	
Observational Drawing	An integral component of Art & Design. Drawing from first-hand observation, from life. The image is not taken from the artists' imagination but from real life observation.	
Mythical	Something that is characteristic of myths or folk tales. Something that is fictitious and imaginary.	
Ornate	Elaborately or highly decorated.	
Geometry	An area of mathematics relating to properties and relations of points, lines, surfaces, and solids.	
Symmetry	The quality of having exactly similar parts facing each other or around an axis.	
Composition	The artistic arrangement of the parts of a picture.	
Illuminated letters	Colourful, illustrated letters that are decorated with gold or silver. In early manuscripts, they served as placeholders in the text and added interest to documents. Illuminated letters were traditionally created using real gold in the form of a fine powder.	
Formative Assessment:	You will be assessed on your practical exploration of the appropriate formal elements and use of media and artistic techniques. There will be a written element to test your memorisation, knowledge and understanding of key historical facts and artistic vocabulary.	