

Staying Clean in the Art Classroom

The art classroom can be a messy place. Students can get themselves, their work and their clothing dirty any time clay, paint, glue, ink or oil pastels are in use. Even though any individual student might be very careful and very capable of working in the classroom without creating any messes on or around themselves, the students who sit near to him/her might create a mess that will get them dirty. This is why it is up to each and every student to look after themselves to make sure they stay clean.

The following list includes a number of choices that students can make to help themselves stay clean in the art classroom:

1. **Wear a smock:** There is a box full of old dress shirts that students can wear as smocks if they choose to. The sleeves on the smocks may be short, so students may also want to roll up the sleeves on their regular shirt as well.
2. **Roll up long sleeves:** Some sleeves need to be “re-rolled” up from time to time during an art lesson.
3. **Stand up when working:** When students are standing it is a lot harder to accidentally put their elbow down into a paint spill or drag their sleeves across a glue covered collage. If a student chooses to stand, they need to keep their chair pushed in or stacked at the end of their table.
4. **Remove sweatshirts, sweaters, jackets and vests:** Students should have some kind of “regular” shirt underneath these garments in order to do this. If the sweater or sweatshirt is a “pull over”, they need to keep it on.
5. **Watch out for long hair:** Some students with longer hair need to be careful about leaning over their work. Long hair can dangle down over a child’s shoulder and drag/dip into wet paint, wet glue, etc.

6. Clean up spills when they happen: If big spills are left until the end of class before they're attended to, other people in the room could slip on the spills or step through the mess and turn it into a bigger one.

7. Think about what you wear to school on art days: If a child knows they are coming to art class on any given day, they may choose to wear clothing that can get a little messy.