



Deliver Arts Award Explore in your
KS2 English and Literacy curriculum

Teacher's guide and handouts
for Arts Award advisers

Arts Award can support many areas of the KS2 curriculum and in a world without assessment levels can provide evidence of progression and achievement. Completing an Arts Award can act as a motivator for children who may be struggling to engage in class and can be a great way of providing evidence of measurable impact for pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium. Offering Arts Award can, among other things:

- ▶ provide stretch and challenge opportunities to more able students
- ▶ support existing extra-curricular opportunities such as a lunchtime clubs, school productions or reading groups
- ▶ engage with and celebrate the success of all pupils, including those with additional needs or EAL
- ▶ help to provide evidence to support a schools' Artsmark application

What is Arts Award?

Arts Award is a range of unique qualifications that supports anyone aged up to 25 to grow as artists and arts leaders, inspiring them to connect with and take part in the wider arts world through completing activities in an art form or art forms – from fashion to digital art, pottery to poetry.

Offered at five different levels, children and young people get to:

- ▶ discover the enjoyment of creating and participating in any art form
- ▶ develop their creativity and leadership skills
- ▶ learn new skills and share them with others
- ▶ get to work with or experience working with creative arts professionals
- ▶ gain experience and knowledge to progress into further education and employment

To achieve their Arts Award, children and young people take on challenges in an art form, participate in arts activities, experience arts events, get inspired by artists and share their arts skills with others. Young people create a log book or portfolio to keep a record of their creative journey. Along the way they are supported by an Arts Award adviser, acting as assessor, facilitator and mentor.



Hadrians Primary photo Fiona Kelly

What does Arts Award Explore involve?

Arts Award Explore is an Entry Level (Entry 3) qualification on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) and is open to children and young people up to 25.

To achieve Arts Award Explore, children collect evidence in an individual arts log of their experiences of:

- a. their active participation in a range of arts activities, providing a personal response about what has inspired them about taking part
- b. their experience of a range of arts organisations, artists and their work
- c. their creativity and arts skills through making art work
- d. identification of what they have enjoyed and/or achieved, and their presentation of this to others



St Agnes Primary

How to use this resource

This guidance is designed to support teachers to deliver Arts Award Explore within the literacy curriculum. We have linked areas of the KS2 reading and writing curriculum to each of the four parts required within Arts Award Explore and provided some useful hints and tips along the way.

Ideas included in this resource are to get you started; you are not limited to these and can adapt to suit your own setting, pupil's needs and potential curriculum topics or schemes of work. You could also link Arts Award to History, Geography, British Values and PHSE curriculum areas (or indeed any others) depending on your termly themes or topics.

You can use this resource alongside other Arts Award resources such as [Explore Activity Planning](#). There are also [free downloadable Explore logbook templates](#) you can use to support evidence gathering with your class, as well as a range of blogs to give you hints, tips and support for delivering Arts Award Explore at artsaward.org.uk/blog

There are many other resources you can use and adapt to your own school delivery including [Five Sessions to Explore](#), [How to run Arts Award as a lunchtime or after school club](#) and an [Explore Music Primary Teacher Guide](#), to help with WCET teaching.

Visit [our resource library](#) to find more free support materials.

This resource is not exhaustive, and is not to be used as a substitute for Arts Award adviser training or the correct use of the Arts Award toolkit. It is designed to be an easy to use 'grab and go' resource for teachers to quickly identify links with their existing curriculum offer. Find out more about Arts Award training at artsaward.org.uk/training



Abbey Catholic Primary School photo Kirsten Holst

Arts Award in KS2 Literacy

Within the Literacy curriculum KS2 pupils 'should become more familiar with and confident in using language, through reading and writing, in a greater variety of situations, for a variety of audiences and purposes, including through drama, formal presentations and debate.'

The arts log each pupil produces can be used within your evidencing of literacy outcomes, tracking pupils' individual progression in meeting school improvement plans and target areas.

Part A: Take Part

Evidence required in pupils portfolios:

- ▶ A record of taking part in more than one arts activities
- ▶ Identification of what inspired them about taking part in these activities

Links to KS2 Reading & Writing English curriculum:

'Pupils should understand the skills and processes that are essential for writing: that is, thinking aloud to explore and collect ideas, drafting, and re-reading to check their meaning is clear, including doing so as the writing develops.'

This includes:

- ▶ listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks
- ▶ increasing pupils' familiarity with a wide range of books, including fairy stories, myths, legends and traditional stories, and retelling some of these orally
- ▶ preparing poems and play scripts to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action
- ▶ recognising some different forms of poetry (for example, free verse, narrative poetry)
- ▶ pupils should be taught to plan their writing by discussing and recording ideas
- ▶ pupils should be taught to draft and write by organising paragraphs around a theme, in narratives, creating settings, characters and plot

Using a theme, including ones you may already have planned, is a great way to get started with linking Arts Award to these curriculum aims. You could use myths & legends or fairy stories as stimulus, any fictional book or popular story, or you could use your topic area such as the Romans, Habitats, Under the Sea or Castles.



Abbey Catholic Primary School photo Kirsten Holst

Literacy ideas for Explore sessions:

- ▶ Deliver your usual creative writing sessions as one arts activity, and complete a second activity linked to this such as creating characters for their story and designing, drawing or making 3D models of these.
- ▶ Add script writing as an activity and have the students act out their story. They are developing their drama skills as well as their writing skills, which can be their second activity. Programmes such as the [National Theatre's Let's Play](#) can support with creating a play in KS2.
- ▶ Challenge the class to do a short piece of non-fiction writing based around a topic. This could be writing up some facts they have found out, or a short piece of journalism. The children could take it in turns to be 'interviewed' in character, developing drama skills and being two arts activities.
- ▶ Writing poetry, journalism or for a school newsletter/magazine are other examples of creative writing activities you could do within literacy curriculum time.

- ▶ Don't forget to record and evidence children taking part in these activities as they go.
- ▶ You can take pictures of children writing, collect their drawings & ideas, all draft copies of their writing, and/or their final piece.

All of these activities can count towards Part A, just make sure you do at least two, and that they are distinct from each other.

'Pupils' knowledge of language, gained from stories, plays, poetry, non-fiction and textbooks, will support their increasing fluency as readers, their facility as writers, and their comprehension.'

After they have completed two arts activities encourage children to record what inspired them (what they enjoyed) about these activities. The word 'inspire' is not always familiar to some young children so encourage them to think about how the activities made them feel, what they found exciting and what they enjoyed. You could create a wordle (word cloud) for this which supports their use of descriptive vocabulary and language, or they could write a poem about what inspired them.

'Continue to emphasise pupils' enjoyment and understanding of language, especially vocabulary, to support their reading and writing.'

Part B: Explore

Evidence required in young people's portfolios:

- ▶ A record of what they found out about the work of artists
- ▶ A record of what they found out about the work of arts organisations

Links to KS2 Reading & Writing English curriculum:

'Pupils should continue to have opportunities to write for a range of real purposes and audiences as part of their work across the curriculum. These purposes and audiences should underpin the decisions about the form the writing should take, such as a narrative, an explanation or a description.'

- ▶ reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes
- ▶ discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination
- ▶ pupils should be taught to plan their writing by discussing and recording ideas
- ▶ pupils should be taught to draft and write by organising paragraphs around a theme

Literacy ideas for Explore sessions:

Finding out about artists

- ▶ The artists your pupils find out about could be an author, illustrator, poet, comic-strip writer or journalist.
- ▶ Pupils carry out simple research into the work of their chosen artist either through library books or online, or even meeting with them.
- ▶ Contact your local library or arts centre/ theatre and see if they have any artists' contacts or visiting authors that you could meet with. The charity [BookTrust](#) have a [handy guide](#) on how to arrange an author visit to your school,

Find out about arts organisations

- ▶ You could use your local library as the arts organisation that your pupils find out about. You could arrange a visit to the library as a school trip, or work in partnership with your library to arrange for them to visit your school and talk about what they do.
- ▶ Arrange a visit to a theatre or arts centre and find out about how they bring stories to life through drama, watch a performance, have a backstage tour, meet with script writers, find out about the marketing department and interview an actor, recording what they find out (who could also be the artist they chose to research!).
- ▶ Visit a local museum and find out about the stories told through the items on display, as well as the sorts of creative jobs that happen in a museum (curator, conservationist etc). Use the items and stories found as inspiration for the children's own creative or factual writing.

Once the pupils have found out about their artist and arts organisation they could write a blog about what they found out, or a short story, a poem or a newsletter. This again helps develop their writing skills, using Part B overall as the subject matter.

Part C: Create

Evidence required in pupil's portfolios:

- ▶ A record of the process of creating their artwork
- ▶ A record of their final artwork

Links to KS2 Reading & Writing English curriculum:

'Read aloud their own writing, to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear.'

Preparing poems and play scripts to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action

Pupils should be taught to plan their writing by: discussing and recording ideas

Pupils should be taught to draft and write by:

- ▶ organising paragraphs around a theme
- ▶ in narratives, creating settings, characters and plot

Pupils should be taught to evaluate and edit by: assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggesting improvements

Literacy ideas for Explore sessions:

- ▶ The artwork that your pupils create could include a written piece of work such as a short story, a poem or comic strip, but it could also be an illustration or a 3D model of a character or a film or animation.
- ▶ Pupils' creation in Part C does not have to relate to Parts A & B but it can do if you wish. For example, if they have learnt how to write creative stories for Part A then they may wish to write their own story for Part C, or perhaps they researched an illustrator for Part B and they now wish to try to create their own artwork in the same style.
- ▶ If there is a school or class play the pupils are working towards they can use this for Part C – just ensure they capture the rehearsal process as well

as their final performance. This can help with their spoken word development as well as being a great confidence boost.

- ▶ Ensure evidence for each part is separate and remember that Part C is a distinct activity from Parts A & B. Your pupils must evidence how they created their own artwork in Part C, such as detailing a written step-by-step instruction of how they made their piece or including copies of drafts with annotations and changes, with evidence of the final piece created.
- ▶ If children have written a piece then they could read it aloud to the class or perform it at a celebration event or for a parent sharing opportunity. This isn't needed to achieve Arts Award but is a great way to add value to the work the pupils have already done.



St George's Primary and Nursery School

Part D: Share

Evidence required in pupil's portfolios:

- ▶ Identification of what has been enjoyed and/or achieved through completing the award
- ▶ A record of what was shared and how it was shared

Links to KS2 Reading & Writing English curriculum:

'Continue to emphasise pupils' enjoyment and understanding of language, especially vocabulary, to support their reading and writing and develop positive attitudes.'

- ▶ Pupils look back at their whole Explore journey and write about what they most enjoyed and/or feel they achieved through participating in all of the activities, research and artwork creation.
- ▶ Pupils can focus on one particular part or all three. This written account can then be presented and shared with others, either through a powerpoint presentation or similar, or they can show their written portfolio.
- ▶ The sharing of Part D could be a formal presentation to the school in assembly or class, or you could invite parents/guardians in for each pupil to present what they enjoyed and achieved one-to-one with their families. In either case, you may want to take a photograph of them doing this and their parents/carers could write a comment on what they found out about their child's Explore journey. Note that just presenting what they have done is not enough to succeed at Explore – children need to also be able to identify what they enjoyed and/or achieved through their Explore journey.

- ▶ If parents/carers are unsure about writing any feedback, they could record this as a small video or audio recording or provide a few comments on a post it note

Congratulations! You have completed an Arts Award Explore using the KS2 literacy curriculum.



Keys Meadow Primary School

Next Steps

Once you have completed Explore with your class, and assessed their portfolios, you need to [enter your students for Arts Award](#).

If you are selected for moderation we recommend taking a look at the [resource library](#) where you will find a number of useful resources, guidelines and checklists to ensure you have everything in place for a smooth moderation.

If you need any further support then please contact the team on 020 7820 6178 or email support@trinitycollege.com