



Arts Award and the Expressive Arts Curriculum

Linking Arts Award and the
Expressive Arts Curriculum in Wales

This resource aims to demonstrate how Arts Award can support the Expressive Arts curriculum's key objectives of engaging, motivating and encouraging learners to develop their creative, artistic and performance skills to the full, covering the range of disciplines of art, dance, drama, film and digital media, and music. Outlining how Arts Award connects to the four purposes of the new curriculum and how it can align with the Expressive Arts area of the new curriculum.

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, music production and performance, pottery to poetry. Offered at five different levels, **Discover**, an introductory award, and **Explore**, **Bronze**, **Silver** and **Gold**, 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 development

Throughout the awards journey young people take part in arts activities, find out about artists and share their experiences with other people. At the higher levels young people also develop their arts leadership skills. At each level young people complete a portfolio, collecting evidence of their arts experiences as they go along which can be submitted in any format – hard copy or digital, and can include a range of evidence such as photos, videos, reviews, sketches and blogs.

The award can be used to structure cross-curricular projects and can support engagement in non-arts subjects, for example **History**, and can also support the **PSE framework**. The flexible framework, especially at Discover, Explore and Bronze, lends itself well to curriculum delivery and can be embedded into schemes of work across subject areas.

Arts Award recognises all creative art forms and practices. For example, where 'art work', 'artist' and 'arts event' are referenced this can refer to anything from music composition to poetry – from classic art forms to new digital culture.

A study into the longer-term impact of Arts Award on young people has shown that completing a qualification can increase:

- ▶ attainment of arts A-level or BTEC Level 3
- ▶ numbers of young people studying arts subjects at HE
- ▶ impact on achievement in other subjects
- ▶ the number of self-directed, artistic projects
- ▶ arts participation



Photo: St Georges Infant and Nursery School

Key findings of Impact Study

There are five key areas where Arts Award has been found to have a positive impact on young people, as shown through the results of our three-year **impact study** led by London South Bank University.

Life Skills	Of the many positive impacts that Arts Award can have on young people, a key area is the development of skills transferable to the world of work, such as increased confidence, leadership and organisational skills.
Accreditation	Arts Award is a highly respected and universal qualification, based on sound approaches to teaching and learning.
Arts Choices	Arts Award influences young people's choice of subjects and supports successful applications for further study.
Entrepreneurial Skills	Completing an Arts Award encourages independent learning, creativity and communication skills; all vital for a career as a freelancer or arts entrepreneur or for careers beyond the arts.
Creativity for Life	Arts Award develops young people from all backgrounds as creative artists and arts leaders, nurturing their understanding of routes to education and employment in the creative and cultural sector.

Cover photo: Abbey Catholic Primary School



Photo: King's School Worcester

Discover

artsaward.org.uk/discover

Part A: Discover

Take part in at least one activity in order to widen their experience and understanding of the arts.

Part B: Find out

Find out about at least one artist and their work in order to develop their understanding of arts practice.

Part C: Share

Share with others what they enjoyed and learnt through the award.

Arts Award Discover is designed for ages 5-9 (particularly for Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2) but is open to anyone aged up to 25. Discover is an introductory certificate



Explore

artsaward.org.uk/explore

Part A: Take Part

Take part in at least two arts activities to extend their experiences and understanding of the arts and to develop art skills.

Part B: Explore

Explore the work of at least one artist and one arts organisation through live or active experience.

Part C: Create

Create a piece of art work to demonstrate arts skills and record the process of making their art work.

Part D: Share

Looking back at the activities they undertook for Parts A, B and C, young people choose an activity/ experience which best reflects their personal enjoyment and/or achievement while undertaking the award. They share with others details of what they enjoyed and/or achieved and why.

Arts Award Explore is an Entry Level 3 qualification and is designed for ages 7-11 (particularly for upper Key Stage 2) but is open to anyone aged up to 25.

Ofqual: 600/3894/9

QiW: C00/0420/1

Bronze

artsaward.org.uk/bronze

Part A: Explore the arts as a participant

Develop interests, knowledge and skills through active participation in any art form.

Part B: Explore the arts as an audience member

Experience at least one arts event as an audience member.

Part C: Arts Inspiration

Research into the work of an artist that inspires them.

Part D: Arts Skill Share

Passing on arts skills to others.

Bronze Arts Award is a Level 1 qualification and is designed for young people age 11+ (particularly Key Stage 3) but is open to anyone up to age 25.

Ofqual: 501/0081/6

QiW: C00/0200/5

Silver

artsaward.org.uk/silver

Unit 1: Arts practice and pathways

- ▶ challenge implementing and reviewing their arts challenge
- ▶ reviewing arts events/experiences and sharing their views
- ▶ researching future opportunities and careers in the arts

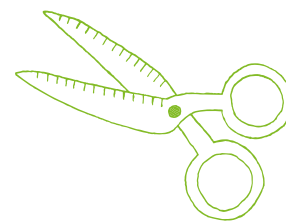
Unit 2 Arts leadership

- ▶ identifying a leadership role and planning an arts leadership project
- ▶ planning the practical issues
- ▶ being an effective arts leader
- ▶ working effectively with others
- ▶ reviewing their project and the development of their leadership skills

Silver Arts Award is a Level 2 qualification and is designed for young people age 14+ but is open to anyone up to age 25.

Ofqual: 500/9914/0

QiW: C00/0211/8



Gold

artsaward.org.uk/gold

Unit 1: Personal arts development

- ▶ extending their own arts practice, experiencing another art form and creating new work
- ▶ identifying and being involved in the world of the arts through placements, volunteering, training and research
- ▶ reviewing arts events/experiences and finding out about artists and their career paths
- ▶ making the case for an arts issue and communicating the case

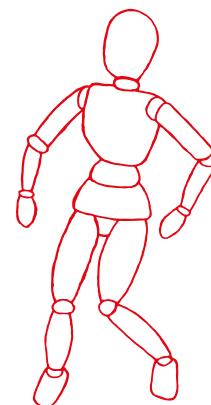
Unit 2: Leadership of an arts project

- ▶ planning an arts project, identifying the project's aims and outcomes
- ▶ organising the people and resources
- ▶ delivering the project and managing the effectiveness of the project
- ▶ managing a public showing/sharing of the work
- ▶ reviewing their leadership development and finding effective ways to collect and evaluate feedback from participants, audience members and other stakeholders

Gold Arts Award is a Level 3 qualification and has 16 points on the UCAS tariff. Gold Arts Award is designed for young people age 16+ but is open to anyone up to age 25.

Ofqual: 500/9666/7

QiW: C00/0211/7



How does Arts Award connect to the four purposes of the new curriculum?

Arts Award supports the development of ambitious, capable learners, through:

- ▶ supporting learners to set their own arts skills challenges and reflecting on what they have enjoyed and learnt
- ▶ developing their art form knowledge and understanding
- ▶ problem solving through the completion of arts challenges
- ▶ increasing communication skills through any means that others can understand, including verbal and digital
- ▶ researching arts in the community, as well as the work of artists and arts organisations

Arts Award supports the development of enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work through:

- ▶ developing and applying knowledge in arts and leadership activities
- ▶ using creative thinking to develop own arts skills, and to plan and deliver their own leadership projects
- ▶ taking risks in a supported environment through the delivery of leadership projects
- ▶ increasing communication skills through any means that others can understand, including verbal and digital
- ▶ identifying own leadership role in project planning and delivery
- ▶ developing and delivering skill sharing tasks
- ▶ nurturing development of entrepreneurial and organisational skills



Arts Award supports the development of ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world through:

- ▶ supporting young people to form and communicate their own views on arts issues
- ▶ learning how to work effectively with others
- ▶ developing personal leadership skills
- ▶ understanding how arts in the community connect to our daily lives
- ▶ providing opportunities to explore art forms in other cultures as an example of gaining greater awareness and understanding

Arts Award supports the development of healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society through:

- ▶ supporting well-being through the development of confidence, communication and leadership skills
- ▶ taking part in physical activity through active participation in art forms
- ▶ developing confidence in performance and communication
- ▶ forming positive relationships with their Arts Award adviser, peers, artists and members of the community.

Skills Integral to the Four Purposes

Arts Award will help young people to develop their skills integral to the four purposes through its core frameworks. For example:

Creativity and innovation

- ▶ trying new art forms to develop creative skills
- ▶ identify weaknesses and identify art forms to support development in this area
- ▶ communicate project plans clearly to others

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving

- ▶ planning and review of arts leadership projects and skills shares, amending plans where necessary
- ▶ making own decisions about their individual learning journey
- ▶ developing own reviews on arts events

Personal Effectiveness

- ▶ development of confidence in arts and communication skills
- ▶ developing independence in their individual learning journey and portfolio development
- ▶ identify strengths and weaknesses in chosen art form
- ▶ complete projects

Planning and organising

- ▶ plan and deliver 'skills share' and leadership projects
- ▶ reflect of effectiveness of plans and delivery
- ▶ give and receive feedback on their creative and leadership work



Photo: Uckfield Community Technology College

How does Arts Award align to the Expressive Arts area of the new curriculum in Wales?

Arts Award's flexible framework is designed to enable delivery to young people in any setting where they are in contact with arts and cultural activity. It enables young people to broaden their creativity, communication and leadership skills through the development of a portfolio evidencing their individual learning journey. Evidence can be presented in any format that others can understand – digital, through a scrapbook, annotated drawings, blogs, vlogs etc. This gives the opportunity for learners to develop their cross-curricular skills – literacy, numeracy and digital competency.

As well as developing as artists in their own right, young people are encouraged to explore the work of other artists and arts organisations, and to review arts events, allowing them to appreciate the creative work of other people. Through this they can develop an appreciation of the arts and cultural traditions of Wales and many other societies and groups.



Integral Skills in the Expressive Arts are particularly covered at Silver and Gold levels, where young people explore their leadership skills. Through delivering an arts leadership project young people develop skills such as planning and review, critical thinking and problem solving, as well as managing time and meeting deadlines. Young people are also asked to connect with professional artists and organisations, and learn more about careers in the arts, as well as education pathways and opportunities in the arts in Wales.

The learning and experience young people develop through participation in Arts Award encourages the development of knowledge, skills and values that can help learners grasp the opportunities and meet the challenges that arise in their lives.

Statements of What Matters

Exploring the expressive arts is essential to developing artistic skills and knowledge and it enables learners to become curious and creative individuals.

Each level of Arts Award is underpinned by a set of assessment criteria monitoring art form knowledge and understanding, creativity and communication. The five levels of Arts Award create a pathway through which young people can build and develop their tools and arts practice. At the early levels of Discover and Explore this can be through play and practical experience, while the higher levels, particularly Gold, allow for formal research and inquiry.

Arts Award encourages a broad definition of the arts encompassing visual arts, performing arts, literature, architecture, craft and design, and digital media, giving young people the opportunity to explore a wide range of forms and disciplines within the expressive arts.

Arts Award can also provide a model through which to explore the cultural heritage of Wales, as well as other cultures and heritages.



Responding and reflecting, both as artist and audience, is a fundamental part of learning in the expressive arts.

Self-reflection, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and planning how to improve is at the heart of Arts Award. Throughout each level of Arts Award young people are asked to reflect on what they have learnt, to share their knowledge and skills, and to seek feedback from others.

When exploring the work of other artists, or experiencing an arts event as an audience, young people are asked to reflect on the art piece and respond critically to it. At Discover and Explore this can be a sensory response, e.g. 'what did you enjoy about it', while at Bronze, Silver and Gold this critical response grows to consider artistic qualities and creative impact, encouraging use of language that is appropriate to the art form.

Creating combines skills and knowledge, drawing on the senses, inspiration and imagination.

Arts Award encourages young people to not just develop skills and knowledge in their art form, but to actively create and share their art work reflecting throughout on their creative process, for example in Explore Part C 'Create'. Particularly at Silver and Gold there is a focus on developing as an artist in your own right and developing your own practice, through for example the Silver 'arts challenge' or

the Gold 'extend own arts practice' project. Young people must present and share their work taking their audience or participants into account

Principles of progression

Arts Award can also support the principles of progression through creating a clear pathway through which with young people can progress, building on their knowledge, skills and understanding, and through which they can evidence this progression.

Next Steps

Find out more about [getting started](#) with Arts Award, or book onto to our [adviser training](#). Arts Award has training courses throughout the year, including courses which are tailored towards delivery for those working with young people with special educational needs, disabilities or other learning difficulties or additional needs.

You will need to apply to become a validated [Arts Award Centre](#) before you can enter young people for Arts Award. Once you have assessed their portfolios, you can [enter young people](#) 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.

Consider booking in a [support session](#) with one of our support consultants.

For more articles and case studies that could inspire your delivery have a look at our [blog](#). You may also want to direct young people towards [Arts Award Voice](#), where they will find support for completing their Arts Award.

If you have any questions about anything mentioned in this resource, email support@trinitycollege.com.