

A CURIOUS PUBLICATION

curiousminds.org.uk

Arts Award: The young person's experience

Welcome

Curious Minds exists to improve the lives of children and young people by increasing opportunities for their active participation in arts and culture. We do this by connecting schools and other providers of children’s services with a vibrant offer of cultural education and creative learning opportunities, to create the conditions where quality and collaboration flourish.

Curious Minds engages with local schools, arts organisations, museums, libraries, music education hubs, local authorities, further and higher education institutions and many other partners across the North West to develop and support their ability to meet the Cultural Education Challenge. One way this can happen is through delivery of Arts Award.

Since its creation, Arts Award has been a vehicle for children and young people to learn and explore the breadth of the arts. It 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. It’s a flexible framework that enables children and young people to take real ownership of their learning.

Over the years we have seen an abundance of schools and organisations deliver this qualification, in many imaginative and vibrant ways. What unites them all is the drive and passion to ensure that children and young people are experiencing the very best arts and cultural opportunities. In offering Arts Award, these providers are fostering a lifelong enjoyment and appreciation of the arts in young people - whether that is as participants, audience members or practitioners.

This publication is designed to give an insight into the real outcomes that Arts Award offers to children and young people, and to highlight key elements of the Arts Award journey at each level. It also explores progression routes between one Arts Award level and another; examining the skills, knowledge and experience built along the way. We hope you will find it a useful reference point when speaking to colleagues, parents/carers and other professionals working with young people about the unrivalled opportunities available through this set of qualifications.

If you would like to learn more about how Arts Award could be used in your setting and support available from Curious Minds, please get in touch with us via info@curiousminds.org.uk.



Arts Award and the Cultural Education Challenge

The Cultural Education Challenge is a national campaign led by Arts Council England with the support of the Department for Education. It asks theatres, galleries, museums, libraries, orchestras and other artists to work in partnership with schools to make sure no child misses out on the chance to be creative and to experience the arts.

It enables schools and teachers to make performing, designing, composing, reading, creative writing and reviewing part of every child's learning journey. It ensures children have an opportunity to know more, understand more, and review the experiences they've had.

Curious Minds is leading the campaign with schools and cultural organisations across the North West of England.

Just as the Cultural Education Challenge encourages children and young people to explore the arts in lots of different ways Arts Award gives children and young people the freedom to experience arts and culture from multiple perspectives. Through these experiences, they widen their knowledge and understanding of arts and culture, which can spark a lifelong journey as audiences, participants, artists or arts leaders of the future.



The Arts Award journey



Discover Arts Award

Start your arts adventure. Designed for ages 5 and above.

Explore Arts Award

Be inspired by the arts. Designed for ages 7 and above.



Bronze Arts Award

Get involved in the arts and share your skills. For ages 11 and above.

Silver Arts Award

Challenge yourself and build your creativity. Designed for ages 14 and above.



Gold Arts Award

Drive your personal development in the arts. Designed for ages 16 and above.

Discover Arts Award

Start your arts adventure - Designed for ages 5 and above, but open to anyone up to aged 25



"I've tried new things"

"I join in"

"I can share my interests with others"

"I know about an artist and their work"

"I am inquisitive"

"I can identify different artforms"

"I have taken part in an arts activity"

"I know the arts are all around me"

Why is Discover Arts Award important?

Discover Arts Award is a **great introduction** to the arts and gives children and young people an appreciation of the breadth of arts on offer. It widens their knowledge and understanding of how art and culture connects to their daily lives and the world around them. Having completed Discover Arts Award, children and young people are ready to explore the arts in more depth as participant, artist and researcher.

WHERE NEXT



Explore Arts Award

Be inspired by the arts - Designed for ages 7 and above, but open to anyone up to aged 25



Why is Explore important?

Explore sparks a passion for the arts by enabling children and young people to **delve deeper** into the arts world, giving them greater appreciation of the arts, work of artists and arts organisations. Explore gives them freedom to take risks and make choices within their own work and encourages reflective practice. Having completed Explore children and young people are ready to develop their own range of arts skills and share their skills and opinions with others.

WHERE NEXT



Bronze Arts Award

Get involved in the arts and share your skills - For ages 11 – 25 years



“I know more and understand more about the arts world”

“I have experienced arts in a range of ways”

“I can pass on my arts skill to others”

“I can reflect on my work and know how to improve it”

“I have developed an arts skill”

“I have started to understand how to make art”

“I can review arts events and share my opinions with others”



Why is Bronze important?

Bronze Arts Award **opens up** the arts world for young people and enables them to experience and understand, first hand, their place within it - as artist, audience, reviewer or facilitator. It enables them to experiment with all these different roles and reflect on their learning.

Having completed Bronze Arts Award, young people are ready to begin exploring their own place in the arts and developing their own practice.

WHERE NEXT



Silver Arts Award

Challenge yourself and build your creativity - Designed for ages 14 and above, but is open to anyone aged 11 – 25 years



"I am exploring my arts identity"

"I am finding out about careers and pathways in the arts"

"I can reflect upon my learning"

"I can critique a range of arts events"

"I am deepening my arts practice"

"I can set goals and work towards them"

"I am starting to understand what leadership and teamwork are"

"I can create and complete an action plan"



Why is Silver important?

Silver Arts Award builds on young people's **own personal interest and enjoyment** of the arts. It supports them to master their artform, develop their leadership and communication skills and encourages them to work independently in researching and connecting with opportunities outside their own setting.

Having completed Silver Arts Award, young people are equipped with a whole range of transferable skills that they can use no matter what they decide to do next. They are ready to take on the challenge of developing themselves as an artist and arts leader.

WHERE NEXT



Gold Arts Award

Drive your personal development in the arts - Designed for ages 16 and above, but is open to anyone aged 11 – 25 years



Why is Gold important?

Gold Arts Award supports young people to become emerging artists and arts leaders. They are able to use real life experiences, gained through their Arts Award journey, as a springboard into the world of further education, training, employment or volunteering. Gold Arts Award gives them **a voice within the cultural sector**, enabling them to develop connections and networks as they continue their professional development.

Having completed Gold Arts Award, young people have a set of artistic, leadership and other transferrable skills and experiences which will help them as they carve out a career, whether that is in the arts or other sectors.



My Arts Award

The skills I have developed through Gold Arts Award have supported my career choices. Researching, networking and meeting new people through Arts Award has led me to job roles.

Gold Alumni

I used to be quite conventional in my thinking and schoolwork. I did what was required and nothing more, but now I think outside the box. I put on a musical and the organisation, logic and reasoning involved helped me to be more creative in my product design course.



Silver Alumni

Arts Award gives you an opportunity to try things and try again if they don't go right the first time. Through Arts Award and the reflection process they understand what they need to do next time so you can see them problem solving and succeeding.

Arts Award Adviser



The Bronze Arts Award was really good fun. We got to take part in lots of different arts; it wasn't about being the best at it, but about improving our skills.

Bronze Alumni

I was able to draw upon what I was learning on the degree course and apply it to Arts Award as well as Arts Award supporting my degree. I was able to get varied perspectives, opportunities and knowledge on the arts.

Gold Alumni

When asked what's the best thing about Arts Award, one boy replied, I can now do proper good art.

Discover Alumni



The children have completed their Arts Award with great enthusiasm and it has highlighted how creative our pupils are in the disciplines of art, dance, music and drama. Through the Award they now have a greater appreciation of the arts and have been able to participate in a wider range of art activities, which has developed their skills.

Headteacher Orreys Meadow, Wirral

What's next?

There are many ways in which you can support young people to gain an Arts Award qualification.

Become an Arts Award Centre

Any business, arts and cultural organisation, school or youth organisation can register as a centre with Trinity College London to deliver Arts Award. The centre is the organisation responsible for the delivery of the awards and through whom young people certificate/moderate their work. In order to become an Arts Award Centre, you will need to attend Arts Award training.

To find dates in your area, please visit the Arts Award website: www.artsaward.org.uk

Become an Arts Award Supporter

Arts Award Supporter is a free tool to promote your existing work to Arts Award Centres, schools, youth groups and individual young people. Your activities, expertise or resources can help young people working towards their Arts Award. To find out more please visit: www.artsawardsupporter.com

Find out more

Arts Award website

The Arts Award website is full of information which guides you through every aspect of the Arts Award journey from booking training and moderation, useful planning resources to finding out what others are doing. Once you are an Arts Award Adviser you can access support sessions and webinars.

www.voicemag.uk

Voice is a magazine and platform for young creatives covering arts, culture, politics and technology. Featuring the latest news and reviews, they're passionate about supporting young people to have their say. Voice hosts a wide range of perspectives from the next generation, from writing and videos to photos and podcasts. It includes advice, tips and inspiration for those undertaking their Arts Award.

Further support from Curious Minds

Whether you are brand new to Arts Award, delivering it for the first time or getting ready for your 10th moderation, Curious Minds can help you keep moving forward. Curious Minds offer free support sessions. For further information please contact: info@curiousminds.org.uk

To hear how others are using Arts Award, listen to our podcast series:
soundcloud.com/curiousmindsnw

Call: 01772 827001

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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Bridge Organisation
Working with Arts Council England
to connect young people with great
art and culture

