



# Arts and Creativity

## Arts and Creativity

### Definition

Different art forms include the visual arts and crafts, music, dance, drama and theatre, literature, film, broadcast and digital media. Within each of these categories are many more sub-groups: music might refer to western classical, world music, jazz, rock and pop, while the visual arts and crafts includes photography, painting, drawing, print-making, sculpture, ceramics, jewellery, textiles and more.

Artists can operate in any art form, not just the visual arts. Although sometimes people may use more specific terms, such as painter, musician or writer, these are all covered by the generic 'artist'.

While there is increasing recognition that people can be creative in any domain of learning or activity, it is also true that the arts offer particularly fertile opportunities for young people to express themselves creatively and to experience the creative achievements of others. This section focuses on arts-based creativity.

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### Learning opportunities

Learning outside the classroom can complement young people's knowledge, experience and enjoyment of the arts in many ways. Seeing a real painting, watching live theatre or dance, listening to live music, or hearing an author read their work are all experiences that can bring the arts alive and provide inspiration. Taking part in a workshop session alongside an artist can be a stimulating experience that enables young people to express their own creativity and gain insight into the creative process.

Arts-based learning outside the classroom offers:

- a much greater range and depth of arts experiences than can be provided by the school alone. A specialist venue or professional performance can ensure that a work of art achieves its greatest possible impact



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- learning in many subject areas, such as PSHEe, citizenship, literacy and history. Programmes such as Creative Partnerships have used the arts to stimulate cross-curricular learning and to introduce creative ways of teaching and learning in all subjects
- professional development for staff and leaders who can work alongside artists and learn new techniques and gain ideas
- inclusion: the arts are highly inclusive as everyone can participate or enjoy a performance, event or exhibition at their own level
- creative role models: young people may not realise that people earn their living through the creative industries, although this is one of the fastest areas of employment
- experience of diverse cultures: the arts can be a safe and inclusive way of investigating issues of community cohesion.

Young people experience the arts as a leisure activity and this may encourage them to return for more with their families. They can also use arts as techniques to be used within the process of developing their school grounds from survey work, through developing designs, to the creation of features within the site.

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### Range of provision

Arts-based learning outside the classroom can take place at a specialist venue, such as a theatre, cinema, arts centre, gallery, concert hall, or recording studio, but it could also include walking around a town to look at sculpture or an open-air photography exhibition, going to a book festival or taking part in a carnival. Many venues provide talks, demonstrations, tours and workshops for visiting groups.

Some companies tour performances or exhibitions to schools, with a chance to meet or take part in practical activities alongside artists. Many freelance artists work with young people within the grounds of a school or other setting, as a venue for performance or to create visual artworks and features.

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### Learning support

Larger arts providers often have education officers who can:

- lead talks, demonstrations, tours or practical workshops
- provide taster sessions for teachers or leaders prior to a visit
- provide materials for follow-up activities
- develop projects for target groups or on particular themes
- manage websites, with online resources and activities
- help with planning and evaluation.



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Smaller groups or individual artists will devise activities in response to need, providing tailor-made programmes to support teaching and learning.

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### Arts and Creativity Web resources

[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

You can find information about arts organisations and activities in your region on the Arts Council site. The Education and Learning pages give a list of arts organisations and arts education agencies that work with young people. The publications section has downloadable resources useful for teachers, youth leaders and others working with young people. There are links to the Artsmark award site, [www.artsmark.org.uk](http://www.artsmark.org.uk), which has many resources on working with artists.

[www.creative-partnerships.com](http://www.creative-partnerships.com)

Creative Partnerships is the government's flagship creativity programme for schools and young people, managed by Arts Council England and funded by the DCSF and DCMS. The programme is built around long-term partnerships between schools and creative practitioners and is cross-curricular. The website includes many resources such as publications, case studies and conference papers.

[www.enyan.co.uk](http://www.enyan.co.uk)

The English National Youth Arts Network (ENYAN) aims to raise the profile and support for youth arts within England, providing more opportunities for the creative and personal development of young people, especially young people at risk. The website is a source of national information about youth arts, with many links and resources.

[www.youthmusic.org.uk](http://www.youthmusic.org.uk)

Youth Music works alongside the formal and community-based sectors to support music-making and training. Its funding complements music in the national curriculum by supporting activities held mainly outside of school hours and delivered by non-profit making organisations. Programmes include support for music-making in the early years.

[www.yde.org.uk](http://www.yde.org.uk)

Youth Dance England is the national agency connecting young people with dance. It works with key regional dance agencies to form a national network that supports and promotes young people's participation in dance. The website includes information about the National Dance Festival and other programmes, publications, careers information and a directory to help people find out about dance activities in their area.

[www.communitydance.org.uk](http://www.communitydance.org.uk)

The Foundation for Community Dance has a members' directory, searchable by region, with links to individual dance practitioners and dance companies.

[www.engage.org](http://www.engage.org)

Engage is the national association for gallery education. The information and resources section of the website includes a gallery finder, organised by region, giving information about educational projects and activities at visual arts venues.

<http://www.itc-arts.org/>

The Independent Theatre Council's website includes a database of its members, searchable by region, with links to individual theatre and company sites. There is also a section for young people's theatre.

[www.nayt.org.uk](http://www.nayt.org.uk)

NAYT (the National Association of Youth Theatres) supports the development of youth theatre and young people's involvement in theatre through a professional programme of training, advocacy, information services and events.



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[www.poetrysociety.org.uk](http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk)

Publications, resources and information about working with poets and poetry.

[www.nawe.co.uk](http://www.nawe.co.uk)

The National Association of Writers in Education: provides publications, resources and information about creative writing, including working with writers.

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