

# Arts Award

## Schools

### For all Key Stages

**TRINITY**  
COLLEGE LONDON



**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## Why Arts Award?

Arts Award is a range of unique qualifications open to anyone aged up to 25. Schools report that Arts Award has a positive impact on students' **literacy, engagement and attendance**. As well as deepening students' art form knowledge, the award develops their **creativity, leadership and communication skills**.

There is a choice of four qualifications that are recognised on the RQF\* starting at Entry Level 3 and going up to Level 3. The highest award has UCAS points attached and there is also an introductory level. Students can progress through all five levels or start at the stage that best suits them.

### Value for students

Arts Award raises students' aspirations and provides motivation for young people, whatever their interests and backgrounds. More than 80% of young people reported that Arts Award had a positive impact on their communication and people skills, building the framework for success in school, further education and employment. Arts Award supports individualised learning in any arts, media or cultural activity.

### Value to schools

Arts Award offers schools the opportunity to demonstrate that they are providing a broad and balanced curriculum, even when arts subjects are facing reductions in exam entries. By engaging with Arts Award, schools can also evidence how they are meeting their SMSC requirements, especially with regards to cultural developments.

Training staff as Arts Award advisers supports their professional development – they don't have to be arts specialists to become an adviser. Offering Arts Award can contribute to receiving Artsmark which demonstrates a commitment to putting arts and cultural provision at the heart of the school (more at [artsmark.org.uk](https://artsmark.org.uk)).

### Links and opportunities

Arts Award provides home-school links and helps with engaging parents in school life and their child's achievements. Arts Award also creates new opportunities for collaboration with arts and cultural organisations, the local community or with other schools and colleges.

Arts Award is managed by Trinity College London in association with Arts Council England working with 10 regional Bridge organisations.

“From the moment I heard about Arts Award I knew it was the way arts should be taught. Being involved in Arts Award has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my teaching career.”

Christine Pearson, ADT teacher, Thomas Estley Community College



Making it work

Within the curriculum

“Arts Award is an enriching opportunity for students who are looking to acquire a broad and balanced curriculum that extends beyond the EBacc. This says nothing about the other impacts that Arts Award provides including resilience, self-confidence, creativity and risk taking.”

Mark Morrall, Executive Principal, Chingford Academies Trust

Cross-curricular

“Arts Award has raised the profile of the arts on a whole school level like no other project or initiative ever has. The young people have developed confidence and skills in leadership and organisation. These positive changes have been transferred to pupils’ work across the curriculum.”

Claire Everett, Head of Art, Cranborne Middle School

Progression

“Arts Award provides a fantastic opportunity for students to focus on aspects of the arts they enjoy. It has helped provide our students with the additional focus they need at Key Stage 3 and is a perfect precursor to the GCSEs and BTECs we offer at Key Stage 4.”

Marie Giannini, Expressive Arts Director of Learning, Longfield Academy



St Agnes School photo Sean Hurlock

Partnership working

“Together with the Telford & Wrekin Council’s In Harmony music programme, we have delivered Arts Award Discover and Explore to Years 1, 2, 5 and 6. The programme’s links with orchestras were really inspiring as the pupils got to meet professional musicians.”

Mandie Haywood, Headteacher, Old Park Primary School

Targeted intervention

“Year 7 and 8 students who achieved Arts Award as part of a targeted Pupil Premium project have gained confidence and increased their engagement with the arts. A number of them have improved their attainment in Music, and we have seen an increase in their behaviour scores.”

Zoë Hughes, Head of Music, Beverley Grammar School

Enrichment

“Offering Arts Award through our Year 9 Specialisms afternoons encouraged independent learning skills. Students were offered a choice of activities and Arts Award was very popular.”

Christine Pearson, Art, Design and Technology Teacher, Thomas Estley Community College

Special educational needs

“Arts Award enables the whole school community to take part in and experience a wide range of arts opportunities. The students build skills, interests and develop confidence through taking part, sharing their work and leading activities. The fact that their achievements are nationally recognised and lead to a qualification is incredibly motivating and rewarding for them.”

Simon Brown, Headteacher, Victoria Education Centre

Find out how Arts Award benefits young people with special educational needs and read case studies about how schools with a special needs focus have made Arts Award work for them at [artsaward.org.uk/SEN](https://artsaward.org.uk/SEN)



Greenfields Specialist School for Communication photo Kevin Ricks

Teaching schools

“Arts Award supports our aim as a teaching school of improving the life chances of young people. It helps students to focus on their own development and provides them with the life skills – and UCAS points for Gold level – that can put them ahead of others in university or job applications.”

John Lastauskas, Arts Award adviser, The Rochester Grammar School

Find out how evidence from your school’s Arts Award provision can help to demonstrate Ofsted criteria at [artsaward.org.uk/schools](https://artsaward.org.uk/schools)

## The impact of Arts Award

Arts Award’s impact on young people has been tracked over three years via a longitudinal study led by London South Bank University. This demonstrated strong positive outcomes for young people in schools and other settings nationwide. The main findings can be found in full at [artsaward.org.uk/impactstudy](https://artsaward.org.uk/impactstudy)



## Professional skills



## Creativity for life



Arts Award is a measurable success story. 43% of the sample reported that Arts Award has a positive impact on other subjects, with nearly 30% saying Arts Award has led them to study the arts at post-16.

Arts Award has positive impacts for the future life chances of young people. Employers are increasingly looking for transferable skills such as confidence, self-motivation and leadership, all of which are proven outcomes of completing an Arts Award.

Arts Award helps to develop the arts consumers and makers of the future, encouraging the sustainability of the industry and opening up education and employment prospects to young people.

\*RQF = Regulated Qualifications Framework (England & Northern Ireland) \*\*TQT = Total Qualification Time  
For more detailed information on this and qualification value go to [artsaward.org.uk/qualification](https://artsaward.org.uk/qualification)

### GOLD AWARD

16 UCAS points  
Level 3 Certificate on RQF\*  
90 guided learning hours (150 hours TQT\*\*)

- develop arts practice and create new art work
- research the wider arts sector
- undertake placement and/or volunteering
- debate an arts issue
- plan, deliver and review an arts project

### SILVER AWARD

Level 2 Award on RQF\*  
60 guided learning hours (95 hours TQT\*\*)

- complete an arts challenge
- review arts events
- research arts careers
- plan, deliver and review a leadership project

### BRONZE AWARD

Level 1 Award on RQF\*  
40 guided learning hours (60 hours TQT\*\*)

- take part in the arts
- review an arts event
- research an artist or craftsperson
- pass on your arts skills to others

### ARTS AWARD EXPLORE

Entry Level 3 Award on RQF\*  
25 guided learning hours (35 hours TQT\*\*)

- take part in the arts
- explore the work of artists and arts organisations
- create an art work
- present your exploration

### ARTS AWARD DISCOVER

20 hours (recommended)

- take part in the arts
- experience artists’ work
- share your discovery

## What’s involved

To achieve an Arts Award, children and young people take challenges in an art form and participate in a range of arts activities, from research to leadership. At all levels they collect evidence along the way in an arts log or portfolio, which is assessed.

Anyone aged up to 25 can take part. Discover and Explore are designed for ages 5 plus (Key Stages 1, 2 and above), and Bronze, Silver and Gold for ages 11 plus (designed for Key Stages 3, 4, 5 and above respectively).

## Get going

- Train staff.** Get started by training staff as Arts Award advisers by booking **in-house training** for six or more to get training tailored to your school. Or individuals can book onto a course at various locations throughout the year [artsaward.org.uk/training](https://artsaward.org.uk/training)
- Plan delivery.** Register your school as an Arts Award centre and access planning resources and information. Ongoing support is available from our helpdesk and website [artsaward.org.uk/schools](https://artsaward.org.uk/schools)
- Regional support.** Trained advisers can access free support sessions. Further opportunities are also available through a national network of 10 Bridge organisations, which are funded by Arts Council England to drive participation in Arts Award and Artsmark across each region [artsaward.org.uk/support](https://artsaward.org.uk/support)

Get current costs, including information on discounts for large groups, at [artsaward.org.uk/costs](https://artsaward.org.uk/costs)

Book training now to start Arts Award in your school!  
[artsaward.org.uk/training](https://artsaward.org.uk/training)

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