

Creative Practitioners 2023/24

Subscribing schools can choose from our range of quality assured practitioners to deliver a full day of creative workshops. A workshop day can accommodate between 15 and 60 students in total, depending on the art form and the school requirements. The day can also include a 1-hour after school session, which can be for students to work collaboratively with each other, or with their parents/carers. Additional workshops days can also be purchased via the services4schools portal at a cost of £460 per day (£535 for schools not subscribed to our full offer), which includes all materials and preparation time. Please contact Laura-Kate Pontefract for a bespoke price for whole school or extended projects.

The aim from the workshop sessions is to involve the class teacher in the activity so that they can continue to develop the work back in class. As well as providing the students with the opportunity to work with a creative practitioner, the workshops will also serve as CPD for at least one member of staff.

Headteachers and Art/Artsmark Coordinators: If you would like to meet with Laura-Kate Pontefract to discuss your requirements, please email her at: laurakatepontefract@sthelens.gov.uk to arrange an online meeting. We are keen to ensure that all activities are tailored to individual school's requirements and so the project proposals below have been created with some flexibility. If you are currently on your Artsmark journey, our activities will support you with this and Laura-Kate will discuss this with you.

Once you have selected from the list below, please email laurakatepontefract@sthelens.gov.uk so that she can introduce you to the practitioner and you can begin to make plans.

Altru Drama CIC www.altru.co.uk

Drama, performance, confidence building and wellbeing

Altru are a creative, not-for-profit organisation. They use drama as a tool to deliver messages, explore issues and develop skills. They work both in schools and community settings delivering a variety of drama workshops on endless topics.

Drama Days for Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2

Altru Drama explore PSHE, History, Science and English topics in a fun, creative and engaging way. Altru provide drama days on any curriculum topic and believe that working creatively can have a huge range of benefits for children, improving confidence, self-esteem, communication, empathy and a positive attitude towards learning.



An Altru workshop includes:

- Warm up activities.
- Physical drama activities.
- Knowledge games.
- Roleplay and performance activities.
- Performance activities.

By the end of an Altru workshop, children will have:

- Increased their confidence.
- Boosted communication skills.
- Improved their teamwork.
- Gained new topic knowledge.
- Engaged physically.

Altru can cover between 1 to 4 classes of 35 children across a single day and also provide non-curriculum bespoke workshops.

Capoeira for All CIC www.capoeiraforall.org

Dance, Movement, Music
Key Stages 1 & 2



Capo-RIGHTS programme

Capoeira for All is an acclaimed community arts organisation that uses the exciting and dynamic Afro-Brazilian art-form of *Capoeira* to inspire young people to realise their potential, explore their creativity, build confidence, develop cooperation & communication, encourage respect & empathy, and bring the school community closer together.

Capoeira combines dance, movement, martial arts, acrobatics, music and play. Rich in a history that dates back to the 1500's, its origins can be traced back to colonial Brazil and the struggle for freedom following the enslavement of Africans by Portuguese colonialists. This beautiful, physical art has survived through hundreds of years of adversity, in 2014 was granted 'Cultural Heritage Status' by UNESCO and is an expression of values such as human rights, dignity, mutual respect and cultural understanding.

Capoeira for All workshops present this cultural art-form in an engaging inclusive and fun way providing participants with a range of unique learning activities and experiences. Workshops explore the values of Capoeira alongside Children's Rights (from the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child) and our shared values of equality, community and respect for each other and ourselves in all our diversity. Each session will introduce a new Right and this will be explored through an embodied learning approach. For single workshops, we will deliver a combination of the Rights principles.

Each session will include:

- Introduction to **Capoeira movements** and sequences, all delivered through engaging **games and activities**
- Brief discussion on **the history of Capoeira** and its significance today. Tied into the discussion of our basic Rights as individuals. i.e. Right to a voice and expression and Right to Safety
- **Musicality and rhythm** activities to develop our understanding on music and movement as well as learning Capoeira songs!
- Opportunities for young people to **collaborate** in a creative setting, practicing the movements and sequences learnt in the session but also applying their own **expression and creativity**.
- Introduction and practice of **basic acrobatics** such as cartwheels and handstands!

Claire Weetman www.claireweetman.co.uk

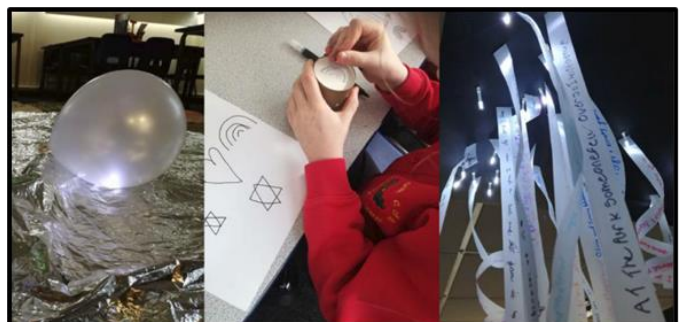
Visual Art, Drawing, Conceptual Art and Collage
Suitable for Key Stage 2

Claire is a St. Helens based artist working in a variety of mediums. Her practice has recently included projects related to mental health and with refugees based in St Helens. She creates performances, installations, photographs, drawings and film.

Constellations of Kindness

Claire will explore how art can be used to express kindness and empathy, linked to emotional or social issues relevant to the age group and school. Her sessions begin with an ice breaker activity where the students pass acts of kindness around the class using a symbolic object.

A collective artwork that focuses on a story about working together will use origami and a collage activity will generate visual ideas of how to represent our acts of kindness. Pupils will select an element from these collages to



turn into a pin prick drawing on black card. These will be able to be joined to create an art installation that is a constellation of kindness.

After-school workshops or resource packs for families will enable the creation of mini constellation projectors using paper cups and mobile phone torches.

These activities will give pupils the confidence to develop a collaborative contemporary artwork that uses visual symbolism and metaphor.

Wishes on the Wind

This workshop combines observational drawing, relief printing processes and a communal activity to collect wishes and hopes from across the school.

An observational drawing session will look at seasonal natural forms collected from the school grounds or a location nearby - for example sycamore helicopters and acorns in autumn, dandelions, and flowers in spring. These drawings will be transformed into rubber stamps, which will be used to create individual prints, and potentially an animated artwork. The activity will focus on how seeds are symbols of hope, that can be planted and grown, a mirror to the learning journey that happens within a school.

A whole-school activity is available as a pre-recorded video, which involves a simple drawing activity and the recording of wishes and hopes for the future.

There are additional cross-curricular resources available that connect with the workshop for further engagement beyond the delivered workshops.



Claire can also provide tailored visual art sessions that focus on techniques such as drawing and installation.

Curtis Watt <https://curtiswatt.wixsite.com/curtiswatt>

Spoken Word and Drumming

Suitable for all ages

Curtis Watt is a writer, performer and musician, with almost 3 decades of experience in community and professional arts, exploring social issues, riddle poetry, slam poetry, beat making, self-expression and self-awareness.

SWAMP on Culture workshops explore and challenge preconceptions of our own cultures and those of others through critical thinking and discussion. The aim of the workshop is to help participants develop and share performance poetry based on the issues explored.

Having been taken through the process, we will have a richer and more rounded understanding of the similarities and differences that exist between cultures, and how we can learn from each other, improve upon and celebrate what is good in our own.



All the above is delivered in a fun and interesting way that fully engages participants and gives them a chance to express and celebrate themselves and their peers.

The very definition of culture can be hard to pin down, so in these sessions we will learn to simplify the apparent complexities, and understand how we can turn our differences into individual pride and universal unity.

Practical Skills include, creative writing techniques, performance techniques, rap, beatbox, percussion working in teams towards shared goals, decision-making and critical thinking. For younger students, the topics will be explored through storytelling.

Twitter: @CurtisWatt

DanceSyndrome www.dancesyndrome.co.uk

Inclusive Dance

Suitable for all ages

DanceSyndrome is a multi-award-winning inclusive dance charity based in Lancashire with a special focus on including everyone, regardless of ability. Founded by Jen Blackwell who has Down's syndrome, they provide weekly inclusive dance workshops for people of all ages with and without disabilities, as well as Dance Leadership training. Their dance sessions are uniquely led by a Dance Leader with disabilities who, like Jen, are inspirational role models. Their work inspires and empowers both dancers and audiences to believe that opportunities are endless for people who refuse to be defined by disability.

DanceSyndrome would love to bring this authentic message into your school and to share their inclusive approach with your staff and young people of all ages. They can customise their delivery to meet your specific needs, but here are some ideas to give a taste of what they can offer:

Full day of workshops

Creative dance workshops which encourage positive health and wellbeing, teach transferrable life skills, demonstrate how we can use dance to communicate our ideas and feelings and also get young people to think about how they can actively work towards inclusion and an "ability, not disability" mindset.

Extended Delivery (requires purchase of additional workshop days)

Dance By Example is a unique dance leadership training programme which DanceSyndrome deliver to adults with and without learning disabilities to enable them to gain a level 1 qualification. This can be adapted to be delivered to Key Stage 4 students.



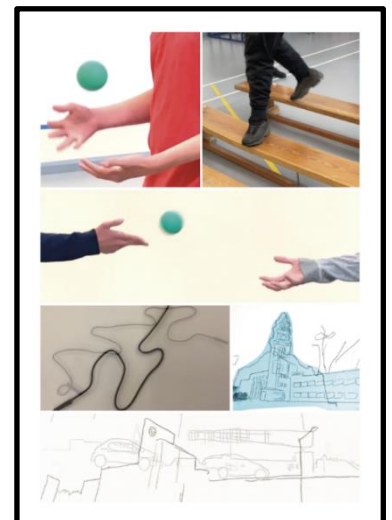
David Bixter www.davidbixter.co.uk

Visual Art and Music/Sound

Suitable for all age

Dave Bixter is a visual artist and musician who creates interactive soundscape experiences using new technology to explore links between sound and drawing. In these multi-sensory workshop, participants can:

- Interact with experimental instruments and create sounds through movement and play
- Turn drawings into music by linking mark-making with sound to develop melody lines for a group sound piece
- Map out rhythm loops with abstract shapes and develop an electronic "drum kit" through sampled vocals and body percussion
- Explore various artistic processes, combining drawing, mono-printing, wire sculpture and filmmaking



Other workshops options include:

- Observational Drawing/Scientific drawing
- Mono-printing
- Expressive drawing
- Exploring music technology
- Effective use of sketchbooks

You can see examples of Dave's work here;

[Responsive sound drawing](#)

[Sound Sculpting](#)

[Drawing and sound rugby](#)

[Interactive sound spaces](#)

Emmer Winder - www.emmerwinder.co.uk

Visual and Conceptual Art Suitable for Key Stage 1 & 2

Emmer Winder is a teacher of digital photography within De La Salle School. She also has 19 years of experience in developing her own personal practice, which covers many disciplines but is centred on conceptual creative art. Her ideas lead approach to creating artwork reinforces the idea that everyone is an artist if they have something to say. How we visualise our ideas can take us on a journey, constructing a deeper understanding of the subject we are commenting on and inviting comment from others.

Positive Activism Workshop

Students are introduced to the purpose of positive activism as a form of expression and visual communication using symbolism and a range of artistic methods. Pupils will decide what personal message they would like to portray through the creation of design which comments on a social, political or cultural issue close to them. The challenge of building this visual comment will rest on the information investigated as a group: composition, colour theory, shape and choice of subject will come together to convey a strong graphic style image. This will be constructed through stages of structured collage and mono print techniques which will ensure accessible outcomes for all. Student voice will then be used to add language to the design, deepening the impact and speaking directly to the audience. Students will be encouraged to display their messages within school in public view as a collective response to the issues they raised. The aim is to create a sense of ownership, belonging and responsibility to speak openly about the issues that affect the students, their friends and families.





Growing Together

This conceptual workshop works well as a multi-class activity that can result in a decorative, symbolic, and permanent display. The workshop introduces conceptual art and how it can help us to question and comment on the world around us. By using colour theory affiliations to the seasons, students create individual leaves, embedded with language which reflects themselves and their views. These leaves are then attached to a real branch to portray the community they belong to, the growth they experience together, and the power held in this visual concept to tell a story.



Work created in this workshop can be used to create a display in your school, Emmer can provide guidance for teachers to produce a display themselves. Alternatively, there is the option for this workshop to result in a permanent display with the assistance of Emmer this would involve the purchase of an additional day of activity for Emmer to construct and install the final sculpture display.

Henry Iddon www.henryiddon.com

Photography

Suitable for Key Stage 1 & 2

Henry is a photographer with 25+ years' experience working in the arts, with 2 Arts Council England funded projects / solo exhibitions. He has been involved in numerous group exhibitions in the UK and internationally including Brazil, Nepal, Italy and even Syria. He has extensive experience shooting for a range of editorial, commercial and broadcast clients including BBC World in London.



Sessions can be tailored to specific requirements and ability groups. Photography is a flexible medium that can be used to connect to various aspects of the curriculum, including science, the environment and PHSE. It can also be used to tell visual stories, build narrative and inspire words or stories using the 'Literacy Through Photography' approach. The workshops would allow people of all ages to experience how cameras work and the wonderful experience of seeing a photograph develop in a portable darkroom. The sessions can include any or all of the following activities.

- A brief history of photography and cameras
- Exploring how a camera is similar to your eye
- Making a wearable camera obscura, allowing participants to be 'inside' a camera and see how they work.
- Experimenting with light sensitive materials using cyanotype contact printing.
- Group work using a pinhole camera and processing black and white negatives in a portable darkroom. All PPE is provided.

Henry is a Youth Support Worker in a youth club and enjoys working with the language of 'resilience' when working with those young people who may be facing challenges in their lives.

Laura-Kate Draws www.laura-katedraws.co.uk

Visual Art, Illustration, Relief Printing and Screen Print)

Suitable for Key Stages 1 & 2

Laura-Kate explores storytelling through narrative illustration within her work and is currently looking to expand her practice into writing and illustrating picture books. She is interested in how images and words can work together to tell stories, share ideas and ignite our imaginations, as well as how picture books, comics and zines can be used to spread messages, share ideas and tackle difficult subject matter. Picture books need to work for both an adult and child audience and can become treasured pieces of art that stay with us throughout our lives.



Illustration for Books

In this workshop students will explore illustration within books, character design, creative writing, zine making and how to communicate stories and ideas using images and words. Students will look at specific techniques for creating books and zines including thumbnails, story boarding and creating convincing characters and story lines that children will connect with.

Commercial Illustration

Laura-Kate also creates commercial illustration and printmaking for her own line of home and giftware such as greetings cards, mugs, prints and clothing. She is obsessive about colour and pattern and as a result, her designs are an exploration of meticulous detail and an explosion of bright colour, inspired by animals, nature, flora and fauna.

In this workshop students will explore creating their own ideas for illustrated gifts and homeware that could include greetings cards, art prints, T-shirts and tote bags. Students will consider what makes a successful product, learn about the process of generating designs for products and be introduced to a small independent business within the creative arts.

Printmaking

Laura can provide workshops that explore the wonderful world of print making. Drawing on her 10+ years of experience of working with the medium of print and delivering workshops across the UK, Laura's sessions explore colour, shape, composition, pattern and ways to create texture. Her sessions focus on learning through experimentation, using a wide range of objects, tools and materials to create unique artwork. Activities can include, relief printing, mono printing lino printing, screen printing and stamping.

Mako Create www.makocreate.co.uk

Animation, Creative Digital Tech and Art

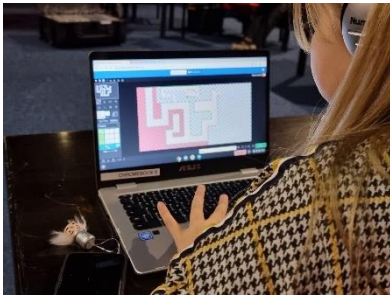
Suitable for Key Stage 2

Mako Create provides unique, fun and engaging training and experiences in all things creative, digital and arts – inspiring our learners to embrace creativity, letting their imagination run wild to see where it takes them. No matter what their age or ability. Their ultimate goal is to encourage everyone to reach their full creative potential. Mako Create workshops are a great choice for both art and design technology lessons.



Stop Motion Animation | Design, Animate and Edit

Lights, camera, action! "Stop Motion Animation" is here to take you on a wild ride! In this workshop, you'll learn how to bring inanimate objects to life by creating your own stop motion animation. From lego bricks and plasticine models to paper sets and characters, the possibilities are endless! You'll develop a range of skills, including designing and creating materials for your animation, working in teams, and the technical skills needed to create visual art. And the best part? You'll create your very own one-minute animation that will leave everyone speechless!



Retro Video Game Design | Design and Code | Create, Publish and Play

Are you a fan of retro video games? Then "Retro Video Game Design" is the workshop for you! Not only will your students have a blast designing and coding your own game, but you'll also be able to bring together subjects like Art, Maths, and English in an engaging and fun way. You'll develop your creative thinking and team working skills as well as boost their technical proficiency. Plus, their games will be published online for the world to experience!

Electrify Your Art, Paper Circuitry | Design, Craft and Make

Get ready to add some sparks to your art with "Electrify Your Art: Paper Circuitry"! This workshop combines the worlds of arts and crafts with electronics. Students will learn how to turn their drawings and paper models into digital masterpieces by integrating simple electronic circuits using conductive tape, LEDs and button batteries. Not only will they have a blast sketching and colouring their artwork, but you'll also get an introduction to electronics in a safe, intuitive way.



VIP Puppets www.vippuppets.com

Puppetry, story telling and team building

Rowan Watts is Company Director, Lead Puppet Designer, Puppeteer and Workshop Facilitator at VIP Puppets. VIP Puppets delivers visually stunning large-scale puppets, teamed with moments of intimate audience interaction, to bring a totally immersive walkabout theatre experience to cultural events. Clients include: CBBC, Glastonbury, Bestival, Camp Bestival, Skipton International Puppet Festival, Beverley Puppet Festival, Chester Zoo, Yorkshire Wildlife Park, and Twycross Zoo.

Newspaper Puppet Workshop

Suitable for Key stages 1 & 2

In groups of three, participants will create a simple newspaper puppet and work together to bring their puppet to life by exploring ways to move and manipulate their puppet by working as a team. Pupils can use their puppets to mimic the emotions and interactions of people and interact making puppetry an excellent mechanism to delve into a broad range of topics in a safe non-threatening way. It works extremely effectively with children and adults with a range of additional needs and emotional issues and is extremely adaptable, allowing for curriculum topics to be build it into the activity.

Pupils will;

- Develop confidence and focus
- Explore nonverbal teamwork skills
- Build upon their fine motor skills,
- Learn about rhythm and performance skills





Shadow Puppet workshop **Suitable for Key Stage 2**

This is a wonderful class activity to delve into the ancient tradition of shadow puppetry in a fun and accessible way. Each participant creates their own shadow puppet then work together to build these puppets into a narrated shadow puppet show. Teachers can choose from a range of traditional stories from Africa, India, China, Sri Lanka and the Caribbean.

This workshop can connect cross curriculum subjects to science and tech (the creation of light and shade), performance, creative writing, and cultural studies. This workshop can be adapted to cover a particular theme or topic that you are covering in school.

Sock Puppet Workshop

Suitable for all ages

Participants will develop ideas for their own sock puppet creature using a design sheet to guide them through the process. Depending on the theme and ability of the participants, pupils will begin creating their sock puppet including details such as; 3D eyes, hair, antennae, moustaches, tentacles or wings. Once the puppets are created, pupils will explore ways to use to bring their puppet to life by; making noises, speaking or singing (sometimes all 3). This is great for developing confidence as well as creativity and there is the option to create a 'puppet show' by the end of the session. The opportunity for the group to perform to another class, or their class peers is encouraged within the session.



This workshop is adaptable from a simple make to more complex design activity, depending on the time available and the age and ability of the participants

Session numbers for sock puppet activity – up to 30 pupils. If you would like Rowan to deliver this session with a second class of 30 there is an additional materials cost of £30.

Wonder Arts

Poetry, Storytelling and Performance

Suitable for Key Stage 1 & 2

Wonder Arts is a charity and arts organisation creating wonderfully unique experiences for over 50,000 children, young people, and families across the North West - every year - inspiring wonder and delight, transforming lives and communities. Wonder Arts began in 2022, but its heritage goes back 34 years as the former Citadel Arts Centre, with much-loved arts activities in St Helens.



About Dommy B

Dominic Berry is an award-winning poet. He was 2017 Glastonbury Festival Poet in Residence, winner of the 2020 Saboteur 'Best Spoken Word Artist' award. In his children's poet 'Dommy B' persona, he introduced his pet 'Dave the Dragon' on CBeebies Rhyme Rocket. Dommy performs lively, engaging, fun and educational work for both small groups and halls of over 200 children!

About Gav Cross

Gav Cross tells stories...Exciting stories, Dynamic stories, Fantasy stories, Traditional stories, Scary stories, Real stories, Your stories. Stories are a powerful tool that can inspire creativity, thinking and empathy in everyone. With exploration and imagination, anything and anywhere is possible.

Whole School Storytelling/Poetry Days for the schools with Gav Cross or Dommy B

Through the day each year group will be engaged with a high-quality storytelling performance or poetry performance and workshop dependant on which artist is booked.

Dommy B will start the day with a performance of 'Spark the Goblin Wizard' for the whole school and then visit classroom or year group to deliver poetry workshops.

Gav Cross will set up in the school hall and each class/ year group will visit him for age appropriate storytelling throughout the day.



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