

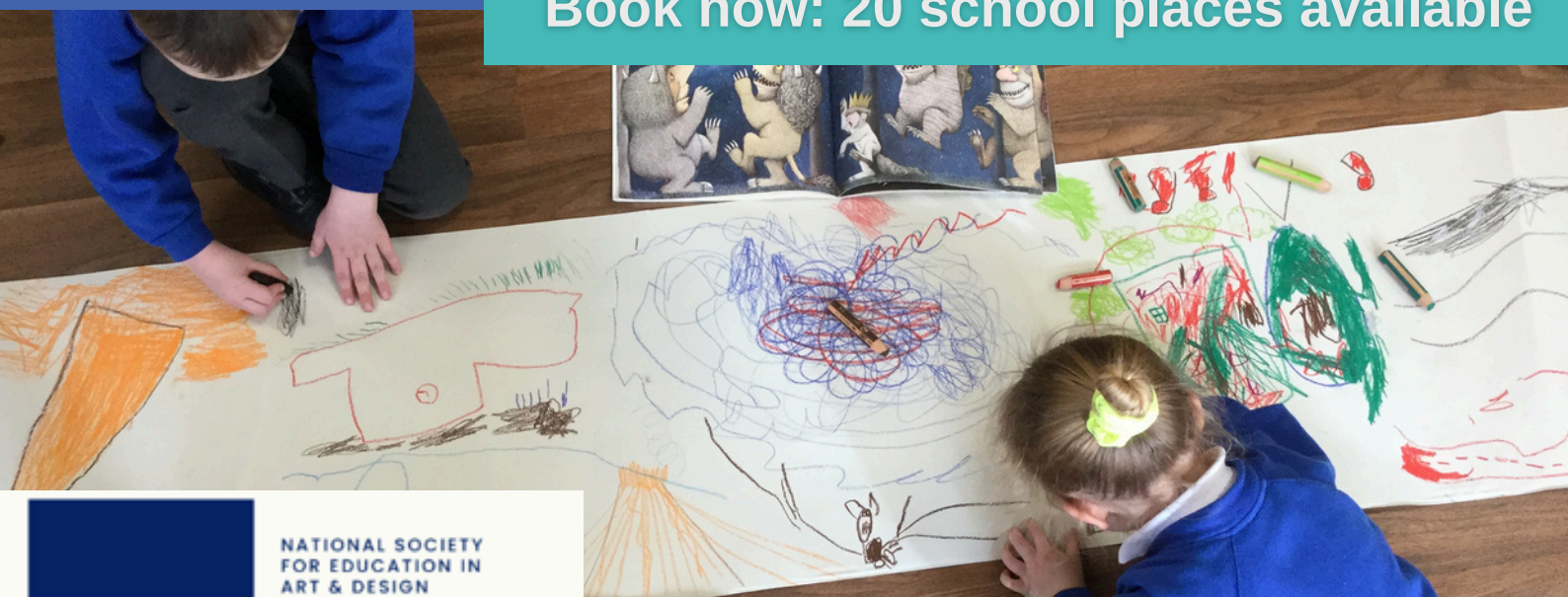
Wolverhampton Primary School Art Development Programme 2026-27

Is your school ready for the new art and design curriculum?

The arts subjects are an entitlement rather than an optional extra and are disciplines in their own right, with unique pedagogies that the best schools teach with expertise and rigour."

Government response to the Curriculum and Assessment Review 2025

Book now: 20 school places available



NATIONAL SOCIETY
FOR EDUCATION IN
ART & DESIGN

nsead

NSEAD Awards Highly
Commended 2026



Talk to us

becky.thompson@artsconnect.co.uk



What does high quality art education provide for children?

Our professional experience working with Wolverhampton schools for over 20 years demonstrates that excellent art teaching can transform the capabilities, aspirations and outcomes of children.

Research shows the following personal and social benefits for children that experience a high quality art education:

Being, Belonging and Becoming

- Agency: autonomy, confidence, identity → independent working and active citizenship
- Wellbeing: flourishing, pleasure, resilience → adaptability, mental health and emotional wellbeing benefits

Relating

- Collaboration: connection, co-operation, participation
- Communication: listening, relationship building, self-expression
- Empathy: compassion, open-mindedness, understanding of differences

Cognition & Critical Thinking

- Creativity: curiosity, imagination, originality
- Interpretation: critical thinking, meaning making, reflective judgement

**Cultural Learning Alliance's evidence-based Arts Education Capabilities framework, 2026*

The Arts Connect Primary School Art Development Programme is designed to equip art leads and teachers with the pedagogical understanding, skills and strategies to ensure children experience a high quality, inclusive and purposeful art curriculum and enrichment offer.

Why is this important now?

- Art education is in a time of significant change with experts drafting a refreshed art and design programme that will 'elevate creative education, reduce the marginalization of arts subjects, and build better transitions between primary and secondary levels'
- DfE enrichment benchmarks are calling for schools to have 'broad and well-rounded enrichment' for all children and see arts and cultural activities as indicators of success
- Our conversations with Wolverhampton school leaders have highlighted that art has been neglected for far too long and many schools no longer have the expertise or resources to build on their art curriculum and enrichment offer. This is echoed in Art Now Inquiry which commissioned by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Art, Craft and Design in Education

We see this as an urgent issue for local schools. Through our Primary School Art Development Programme we will provide 20 schools with our expertise and connections to transform the art education and experiences of children across Wolverhampton.

"The curriculum should be enriching in every single subject, including the arts subjects which are a fundamental part of the rich and broad education."

Government response to the Curriculum and Assessment Review 2025





Why work with Arts Connect?

- Arts Connect are a skilled and dedicated team of art education teachers and specialists with over 20 years experience of working with Black Country schools
- We have extensive experience leading art based CPD and school improvement programmes locally and regionally, recently gaining significant funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to lead a 2-year primary teacher development programme with 5 Wolverhampton primary schools. Find out more here: [Classroom as Studio | Arts Connect](#)
- We work in partnership with School Trusts and groups of schools to design and lead professional development programmes and subject lead networks around the specific needs and priorities of the Trust and individual schools. Find out more here: [Working with School Trusts | Arts Connect](#)
- We work in partnership with local and national arts and education organisations to enhance the quality of our work, including [Arts Council England](#), [Access Art](#) and [Art UK](#)
- We are highly commended by NSEAD (National Society for Education in Art and Design) for our work with local schools

Arts Connects ‘artist-teacher approach, alongside its strong CPD provision, has created meaningful opportunities for thousands of young people to engage with art in accessible, inclusive, and empowering ways. Particularly impressive is the integration of spoken language development within arts education, helping to address barriers faced by disadvantaged pupils while fostering confidence and cultural engagement.’

NSEAD Highly Commended 2026



What benefits will school access?

We are looking for 20 pioneering primary schools in Wolverhampton to join a bespoke school improvement programme that is the first of its kind in the UK.

Schools will benefit from a comprehensive offer of art lead and teacher development opportunities designed to improve curriculum design, enhance classroom teaching and grow a purposeful enrichment offer that meets National Curriculum and Ofsted requirements and supports school improvement plans.

In the first year of the programme schools will access:

- An art lead CPDL programme - up to 3.5 days in person and online focused on developing high quality subject leadership, curriculum design, teaching and learning and enrichment
- In school advisory and support sessions - 3 days bespoke support and guidance for art leads and teachers
- Essential art teaching skills CPD programme - up to 6 days development for art leads, teaching and support staff
- A city art teacher network - online and in-person opportunities to share, connect and showcase teacher and pupil work

What will this look like in your school?

Art Lead CPDL Programme

- The Art Lead CPDL Programme is designed for art leads of all stages of experience and expertise
- The programme will focus on developing leadership skills, building subject knowledge and skills and increasing understanding of high-quality art curriculum design and implementation
- Through a series of CPDL sessions and in-school advisory and support time, art leads will identify strengths and opportunities for development in current art teaching practice, art curriculum design and enrichment offers
- Art Leads will set ambitious and achievable development priorities with a focus on key areas of school improvement including improving pupil inclusion and belonging, oracy and personal development and parental engagement
- Art leads will develop strategies to develop and lead in school/Trust CPD

Art Lead CPDL Programme Schedule 2026-27

When	CPDL Focus
Thursday 12 th November 2026 9.00am-12.00pm	Building an ambitious art curriculum
Tuesday 26 th January 2027 3.45-5.00pm (Online)	Development priorities and planning for action
Thursday 22 nd April 2027 9.00am-12.00pm	Sharing your curriculum vision and leading teacher CPD
Friday 9 th July 2027 9.00am-12.00pm	Reflecting on development priority progress and planning for the year ahead

Art leads will work with specialist art teachers to identify curriculum strengths and development priorities to design an actionable development plan for the academic year.

- Support with curriculum design and enrichment development
- Modelling artistic practices and art-based learning pedagogies
- Supporting teachers to plan, prepare and lead art lessons
- Reflection and planning
- CPD planning and support
- Mentoring
- Research
- Building connections with parents and the school community
- Connecting with schools, arts organisations and artists
- Gallery visits
- Artsmark and Arts Award support.

Essential Art Teaching Skills CPD Programme

Art Connect full day in person CPD sessions will take place at Wolverhampton city art and education venues and are designed for art leads, teachers and professionals working in schools of all stages of experience and expertise.

Through a combination of practical and theoretical activities teachers will develop practical starting points for teaching KS1 /2 pupils, learning practical skills that show progression across key stages.

Teachers will also develop their understanding of how skills can be applied across the curriculum to increase pupil's oracy and collaborative working skills.

When	CPD Focus
Friday 20th November 2026 - 9.30am-3.30pm	Developing Sketchbook Practice
Thursday 11th February 2027- 9.30am-3.30pm	Teaching Drawing
Friday 19th March 2027- 9.30am-3.30pm	Teaching Painting
Tuesday 20th April 2027- 10.30am-4.00pm	Teaching Visual Literacy
Wednesday 26th May 2027 - 9.30am-3.30pm	Teaching Sculpture
Friday 25th June 2027- 9.30am-3.30pm	Teaching Printing and Textiles

The CPD was extremely well organised and offered a great balance of theory and hands-on experience which took into account prioritising pupil inclusion. We came away feeling inspired, more confident in using arts-based approaches, and equipped with ideas and resources that will have a lasting impact on our practice. We would highly recommend these sessions to anyone looking to develop their creativity and understanding of arts-based learning.

Assistant Headteacher- Nishkam Primary School, Wolverhampton

Essential Art Teaching Skills CPD Programme

Developing Sketchbook Practices

Friday 20th November 2026, 9.30am-3.30pm

Teachers will learn how to make a range of sketchbooks and increase their understanding of how sketchbook practices can be applied in the classroom to grow pupils' skills, engagement and progression in art and other curriculum areas.

Through the session teachers will:

- Build their knowledge of sketchbook practices and how to apply these to support skill development and progression of all pupils
- Learn how to make different types of sketchbooks from easily accessible sustainable materials
- Explore how sketchbook practice can increase pupils sense of belonging and ownership of their learning. Discuss learning strategies and the sequencing of art activities and how they can be adapted for pupils' needs
- Consider how sketchbook practice can be embedded in different curriculum areas.

'I have a clearer understanding of how to document pupil progression more effectively.' Primary Art Lead, Gloucester



Feedback from 73 primary teachers who attended Arts Connect CPD 2024-26

Teaching Drawing

Thursday 11th February 2027, 9.30am-3.30pm

This session will build teachers skills and confidence in teaching drawing with KS1 and KS2 pupils. Teachers will learn a range of observational and expressive drawing techniques using accessible materials that can be adapted for their pupils and curriculum needs.

Through the session teachers will:

- Develop their knowledge and application of a range of drawing techniques and tools
- Build a greater understanding and experience of formal art elements, such as line, shape, tone, texture, form and space
- Enhance visual analysis skills and art vocabulary through discussing, analysing and comparing artwork
- Learn about traditional and contemporary artists from a range of backgrounds and cultures
- Discuss teaching and learning strategies and the sequencing of art activities and how they can be adapted to engage, support and challenge pupils

‘I have lots of new ideas for how to give children more freedom and opportunities to explore and discover in art’ Primary Art Teacher, Birmingham





Teaching Painting

Friday 19th March 2027, 9.30am-3.30pm

This session will build teachers skills and confidence in teaching painting with KS1 and KS2 pupils. Teachers will learn a range of representational and expressive painting techniques and how to use different paint mediums that can be adapted for their pupils and curriculum needs.

Through the session teachers will:

- Build their skills and confidence using water colour and poster paint and a variety of painting tools
- Enhance their knowledge and application of colour theory and formal art elements such as colour, tone, texture, pattern and form
- Develop their visual analysis skills and art vocabulary through discussing, analysing and comparing artwork
- Learn about traditional and contemporary artists from a range of backgrounds and cultures
- Discuss teaching and learning strategies and the sequencing of art activities and how they can be adapted to engage, support and challenge pupils

'I have taken away lots of ideas for activities in school and have a renewed confidence in teaching art.' Primary Art Lead, Dudley



Teaching Visual Literacy

Thursday 22nd April 2027, 10.30am-4.00pm

Using Wolverhampton Art Gallery exhibitions, teachers will develop their understanding of how traditional and contemporary artworks can be used to build children's oracy and visual literacy skills through structured questioning, discussion and debate.

Through the session teachers will:

- Grow their knowledge, skills and confidence in leading pupil gallery visits
- Explore how to create bespoke learning activities and resources inspired by artworks
- Learn how to build pupil's oracy, visual literacy and critical thinking skills through observing, describing and analysing artworks
- Learn about traditional and contemporary artists from a range of backgrounds and cultures
- Develop their understanding of how visual art can enhance learning and compliment activities across the curriculum

'I now have a bank of questions that will support children to develop their vocabulary and talk about their artwork.' Infant School Teacher, Walsall

Teaching Sculpture

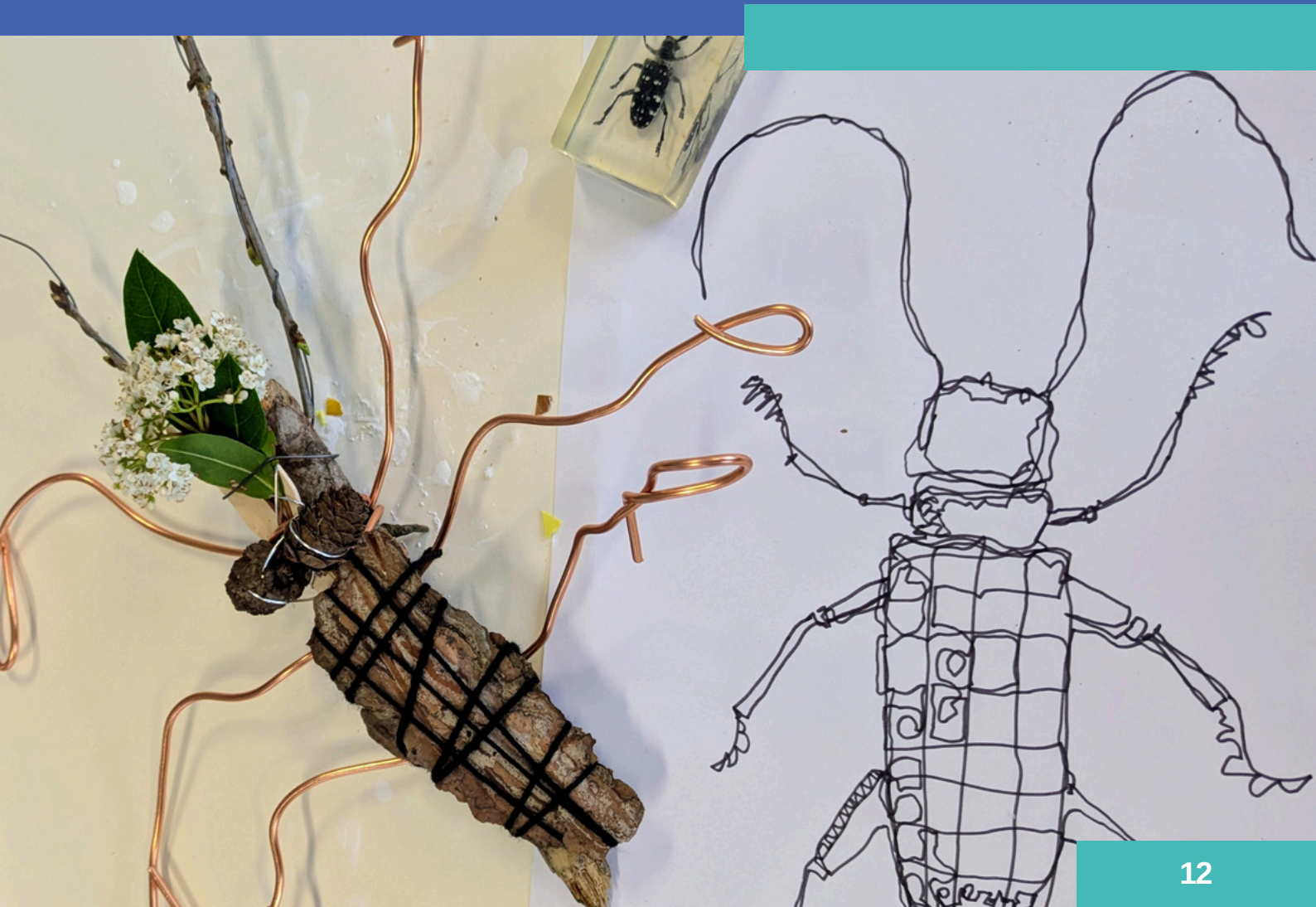
Wednesday 26th May 2027, 9.30am-3.30pm

This session will build teachers skills and confidence in teaching sculpture with KS1 and KS2 pupils. Teachers will learn how to use a range of sculptural materials and techniques to grow pupils' 3D making, design and problem-solving skills.

Through the session teachers will:

- Build their understanding and application of sculptural and construction techniques using sustainable and easily accessible materials including, clay, wire and card
- Increase their understanding of idea generation and design processes
- Explore how sculpture can encourage pupil's creative self-expression and imagination
- Discuss learning strategies and the sequencing of art activities and how they can be adapted for pupil's needs
- Consider how sculpture can be embedded in different curriculum areas

'I found it helpful to challenge my pre-conceptions of sculpture and consider how it could fit into our curriculum more purposefully' Primary Art Lead, Leicester





Teaching Printing and Textiles

Friday 25th June 2027, 9.30am-3.30pm

This session is designed to build teachers knowledge, skills and confidence in teaching printing and textile art with KS1 and KS2 pupils and provide project starting points that can be easily adapted for your pupils and your curriculum needs.

Through the session teachers will:

- Build their skills using a range of printing and textile art techniques using easily accessible materials
- Increase their understanding and experience of the print and textiles design processes
- Explore learning strategies and the sequencing of art activities and how they can support pupil development and progression
- Grow their knowledge of traditional and contemporary textile and print artists and designers
- Develop their visual analysis skills and art vocabulary through discussing, analysing and comparing artwork

‘The CPD was well resourced and there was a great range of hands-on activities. I will be taking what I’ve learned back to school to lead a whole staff art inset day.’ Primary Art Lead, Walsall

Primary School Art Development Programme

Introductory Programme Cost

Wolverhampton Primary School Art Programme Details	Introductory Cost 2026/7
• 6 x Essential Art Teaching CPD sessions (1 member of staff per session) • 3.5 days Art Lead CPDL sessions (online and in-person) • 3 days in-school advisory support	£2000

Contact Becky at becky.thompson@artsconnect.co.uk to discuss how your school could benefit from the Wolverhampton Primary Art Development Programme.



www.artsconnect.co.uk



[artsconnectwestmids](https://www.facebook.com/artsconnectwestmids)



[@Amped.Up.Art](https://www.instagram.com/_@Amped.Up.Art)