



*The New  
AccessArt  
Primary Art  
Curriculum*

[www.accessart.org.uk/primary-art-curriculum/](http://www.accessart.org.uk/primary-art-curriculum/)

The background image shows a detailed view of an art workspace. In the foreground, there's a wooden surface with a piece of art featuring a yellow circle and red wavy lines. To the left, a pair of green-handled scissors lies on the wood. Above the scissors, several white feathers are scattered. A red cup holds several paintbrushes. In the background, a white palette with various colors of paint is visible, along with a red container and some crumpled paper.

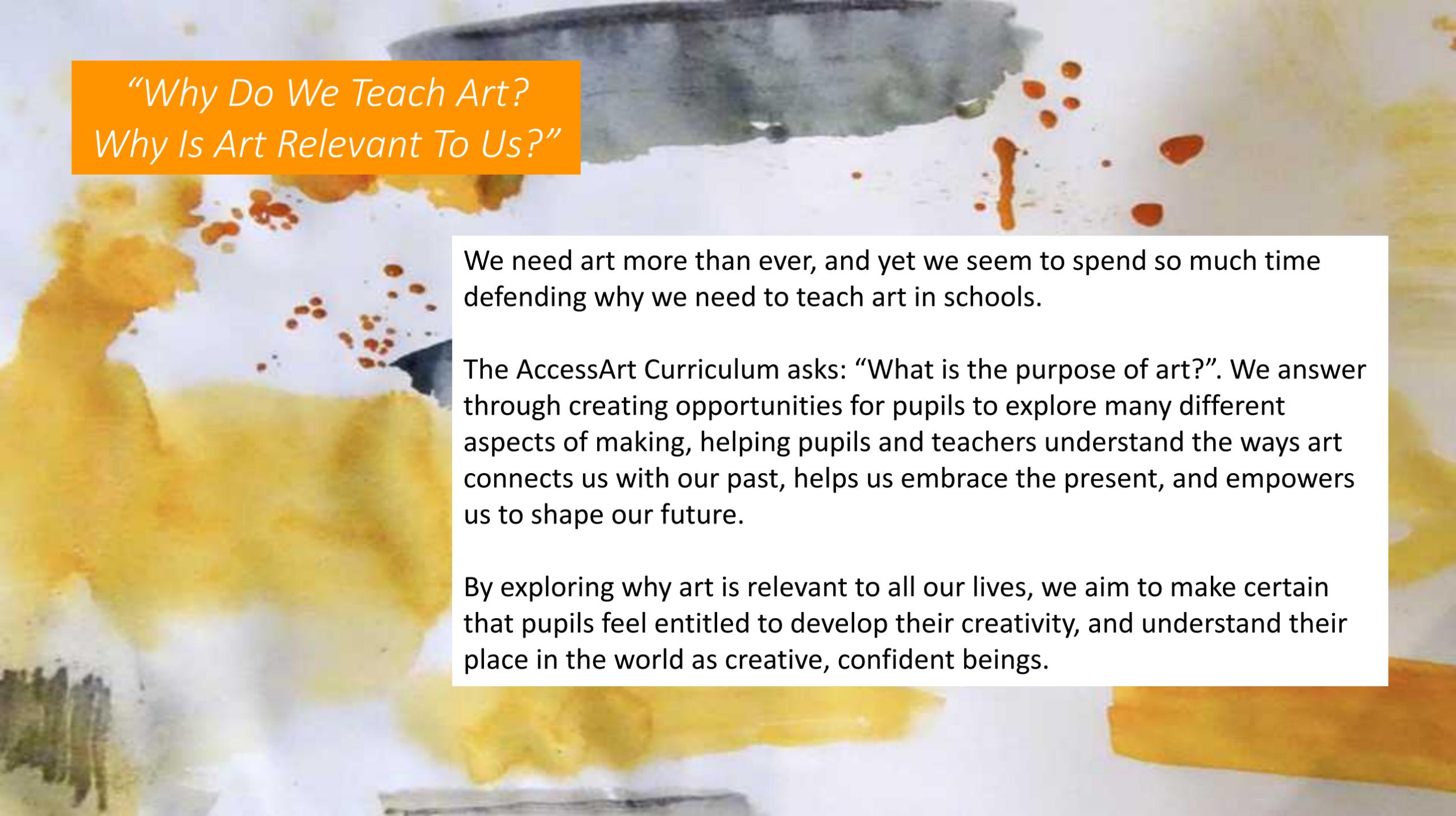
## Introducing the New AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum!

We are excited to be able to share with you our new curriculum, consisting of 36 pathways for Years 1 to 6, designed to inspire and enable high quality visual arts teaching and learning.

Designed around the idea that art is far more than a series of technical skills, our holistic curriculum nurtures creative thinking skills and helps ensure your pupils learn *through* art, as well as *about* art.

We hope you enjoy exploring.

Best wishes, Paula Briggs, Creative Director, AccessArt

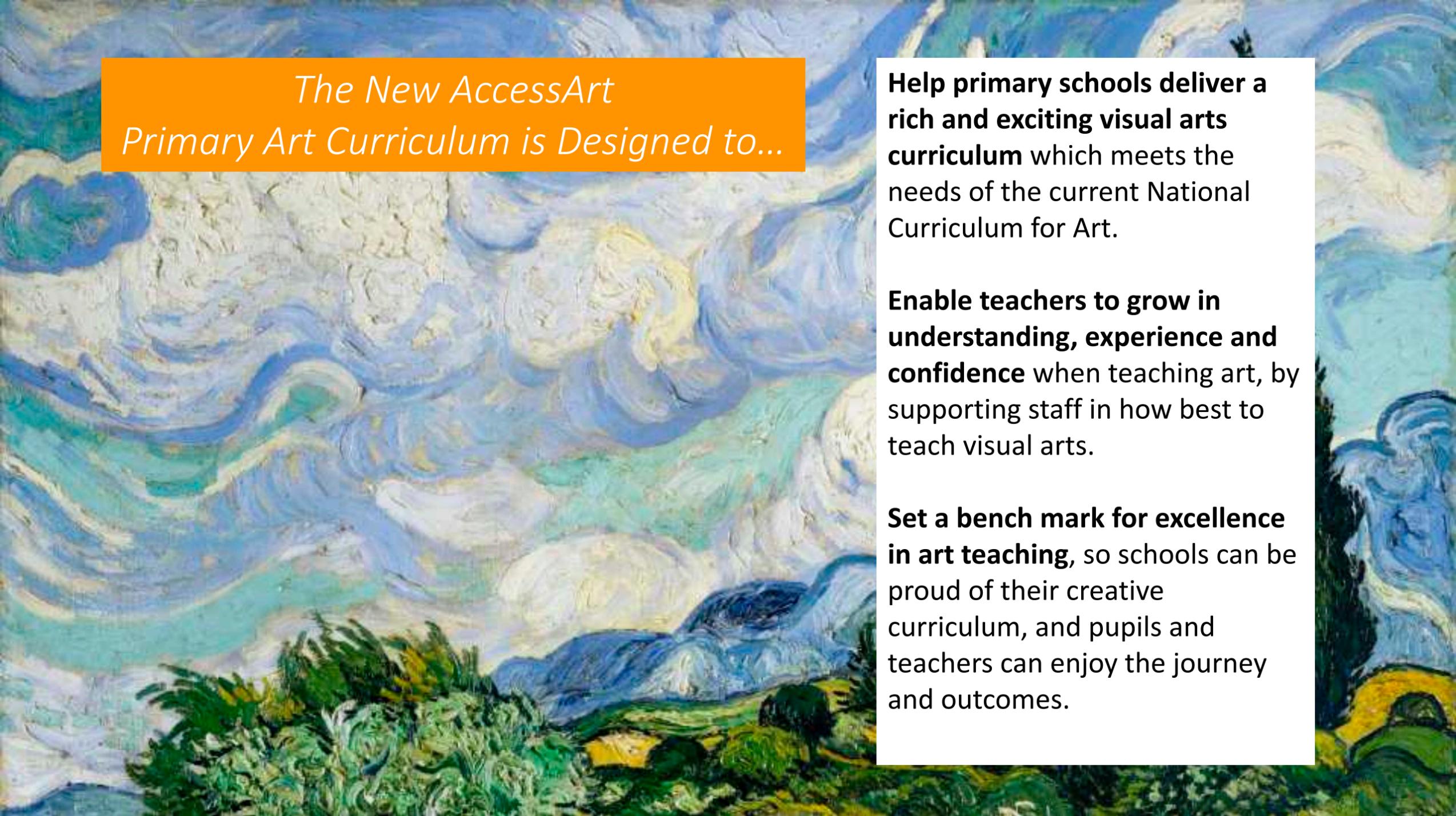


*“Why Do We Teach Art?  
Why Is Art Relevant To Us?”*

We need art more than ever, and yet we seem to spend so much time defending why we need to teach art in schools.

The AccessArt Curriculum asks: “What is the purpose of art?”. We answer through creating opportunities for pupils to explore many different aspects of making, helping pupils and teachers understand the ways art connects us with our past, helps us embrace the present, and empowers us to shape our future.

By exploring why art is relevant to all our lives, we aim to make certain that pupils feel entitled to develop their creativity, and understand their place in the world as creative, confident beings.



*The New AccessArt  
Primary Art Curriculum is Designed to...*

**Help primary schools deliver a rich and exciting visual arts curriculum** which meets the needs of the current National Curriculum for Art.

**Enable teachers to grow in understanding, experience and confidence** when teaching art, by supporting staff in how best to teach visual arts.

**Set a bench mark for excellence in art teaching**, so schools can be proud of their creative curriculum, and pupils and teachers can enjoy the journey and outcomes.

## *Building Teachers' Skills...*

It's important to us that ALL teachers feel able to use the activities and approach within the AccessArt Curriculum. In addition to all the resources on the website we also provide zoom CPD to support the pathways in the curriculum, helping to build teacher understanding and confidence. You can also contact us by email with specific questions.

Our aim is always to enthuse teachers without overwhelming them, and to make sure that teaching art is a pleasurable and rewarding experience.



## *Journeyful Teaching & Learning...*



You won't find prescribed teaching ideas and pre-defined outcomes in the AccessArt Curriculum. Instead our emphasis is on journeyful teaching and learning which empowers teachers and pupils to become confident creative decision makers. Teachers and pupils can GROW with our curriculum, and to help that happen we have created clear structures and access to resources which help teachers understand the WHY as well as the HOW.



## *“Knowledge-Rich?”*

Yes the new AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum is knowledge-rich, and pupils will learn a wide range of skills, developing understanding and showing clear progression. But crucially, the knowledge and understanding pupils will build will go far beyond the technical, factual knowledge many current curriculums focus upon.

Our curriculum balances declarative knowledge with experiential knowledge, building self-knowledge and nurturing traits in learners which will hold them in good stead whichever direction their learning takes them.

## *Progressive in Every Sense of the Word...*

There is a lot of misunderstanding about sequencing and progression in Primary Art. There are no set sequences, and no right and wrong order in the way we introduce skills. Instead, learning is built through a weaving and layering and revisiting of experiences. You WILL see progression ([or “growth” as we prefer to call it](#)).

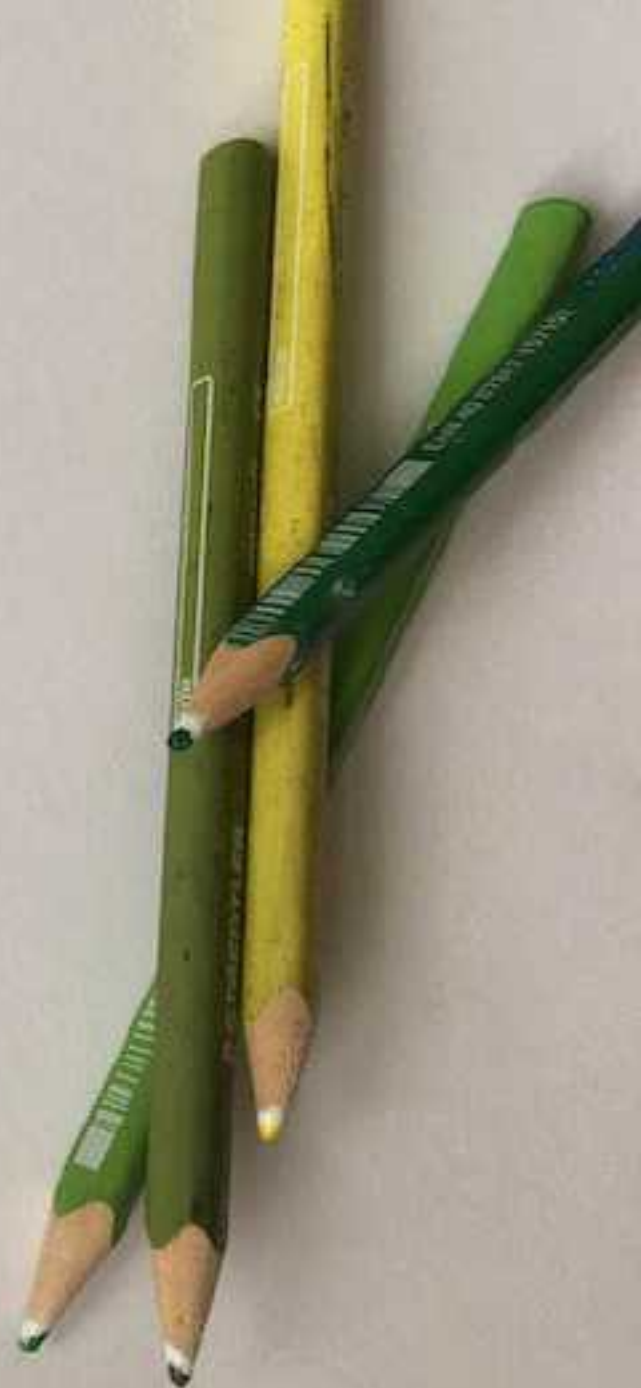
The AccessArt Curriculum is about OPENING UP what art is, giving pupils have lots of different kinds of opportunities and experiences (media, techniques, approaches, artists), all underpinned by creative use of drawing and sketchbooks.

Our aim is that every teacher understands the larger structure and relevance of what comes before and after, and that every child has the opportunity to find the elements of art, craft & design which resonate for them.

## *"I Can..."*

There are no national standards in Primary Art and Design, so we advocate [gentle, ongoing assessment](#) based upon lots of conversation, to discover intention and understanding, as well as looking at outcomes of the journey and end result.

Remember creativity can be fragile – so tread with care. AccessArt has [plenty of resources on how to approach assessment](#). Each pathway contains suggested "I Can..." statements which can use you to check understanding.



## *Diverse & Contemporary Artists, Designers, Craftspeople...*

The AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum is supported by a series of [“Talking Points”](#) resources, carefully curated to introduce teachers and pupils to a wide variety of artists, designers and craftspeople from across the world.

We also juxtapose contemporary artists with more traditional artists, giving you the opportunity to look afresh at artists you may already study.

Our collection of Talking Point resources is being added to all the time, keeping schools up to date and inspired.

ANDY GILMORE



Exploring the work of artist and designer Andy Gilmore

LOUISE DESPONT



Exploring the work of artist Louise Despont

WHAT IS A PLINTH?



What role does a plinth play?

THOMAS J PRICE



Explore the bronze sculptures made by Thomas J Price

PAUL CEZANNE



Explore the still life paintings of Paul Cezanne

CONTEMPORARY STILL LIFE



Explore work of contemporary artists working with still life

### HUNDERTWASSER THE ARCHITECT



Exploring the architecture of Austrian Architect Hundertwasser

### BRIDGE DESIGN



How can imaginative can bridges be?

### MARELA ZACARIÁS



Explore the work of painter / sculptor Marela Zacarías

## *HOW Might We use Artists in School?*

We study artists, designers and craftspeople not so we can make copies or pastiches of their style, but so we can learn from the way they see the world.

### CHARLIE FRENCH



Explore the work of painter Charlie French

### BRUSH WORK OF VAN GOGH AND CEZANNE



Exploring the brushwork detail of paintings by Van Gogh and Cezanne

### THE CRAFT OF WORRY DOLLS



Explore the origins of Worry Dolls

Explore the video on AccessArt to understand how AccessArt advocates using artists, designers and craftspeople in school.

An abstract painting featuring several faces and a hand. The faces are rendered in a stylized, expressive manner with bold outlines and a limited color palette of earthy tones. A hand is visible in the lower right, holding a brush. The background is a mix of warm colors like red, orange, and yellow, with some darker areas. The overall style is reminiscent of mid-20th-century abstract art.

## *The Structure of Our New Curriculum...*

Pathways aim to connect [Pedagogy-based resources](#) and [activity-based resources](#) on AccessArt, together with external links to websites which explore chosen artists/themes, to form a flexible structure which teachers can navigate easily.

Pathways follow tested pedagogical approaches and help build teacher understanding in addition to providing progressive projects.

*Rewarding for Pupils AND Teachers...*

# Congrats

Each pathway tells a story / forms a journey, for both teacher and pupil. Each pathway follows a particular format which promotes excellent teaching & learning:

- Warm-up: Artists: Activity: Crit / Reflection
- Artists: Materials: Activity: Crit / Reflection
- Challenge or Brief: Artist: Activity: Crit / Reflection

## *Rhythm: Balancing Practice with Opportunity*

Creativity likes rhythm – we respond best as creative beings when we have space and time to explore and respond.

The 36 Pathways follow a repeated rhythm, providing lots of time to balance repeated practice with new experiences, quiet approaches with active and dynamic activities, time to work alone with collaborative and community based activities... all geared to create energy and momentum throughout the year.

Drawing &  
Sketchbooks

Print, Colour,  
Collage

Working in  
Three  
Dimensions

Paint,  
Surface,  
Texture

Working in  
Three  
Dimensions

Collaboration  
&  
Community



## *Flexible and Evolving...*

There is nothing static about the AccessArt Curriculum. The original 36 pathways contain lots of ways that schools can adapt ideas to suit their own special circumstances, making the curriculum flexible and changeable according to need/opportunity.

New pathways will be created throughout the year, giving schools the option to swap out particular pathways if you feel a particular focus might suit you better.

## *Plans to Suit Your School...*

### THE FULL ACCESSART CURRICULUM



See the full AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum designed for schools teaching art (primarily as a discrete subject) each week

### THE SPLIT ACCESSART CURRICULUM



See the "Half" AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum designed for schools alternating Art with other subjects each half term

### "MIXED YEAR GROUP" CURRICULUM



See the AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum designed for schools teaching in mixed year groups

### LINKING TO OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS



See the AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum designed for schools wanting to link to other Curriculum areas



## *Other Ways to Use AccessArt...*

Not all schools use AccessArt to follow our curriculum. Many thousands of schools use AccessArt to:

- Inspire and energize their existing teaching – we have over [1200 resources](#) which you can use to plan your own teaching, and re-energise existing plans you follow.

- Develop teacher skills – [we run regular zoom CPD and can also offer tailored CPD for your school.](#)

## *Supporting Documents & Support*

In addition to the pathways, find [supporting documents here](#).

To help teachers use our new curriculum we'll be running zoom sessions to bring the pathways to life. [Find out more at here](#).



## *Accessing the AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum*

The New AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum will be available from [www.accessart.org.uk/primary-art-curriculum](http://www.accessart.org.uk/primary-art-curriculum)

Schools must hold a [multiuser membership](#) to access the curriculum, and additionally benefit from telephone and email support and discount on zoom CPD.

AccessArt is a registered Charity. Membership fees are kept as low as possible.

- £96 for up to 8 users (per year)
- £180 for up to 18 users (per year)
- £240 for up to 30 users (per year)

Curriculum Enquiries:  
[Paula@accessart.org.uk](mailto:Paula@accessart.org.uk)

Membership Enquiries:  
[Andrea@accessart.org.uk](mailto:Andrea@accessart.org.uk)

[www.accessart.org.uk/primary-art-curriculum/](http://www.accessart.org.uk/primary-art-curriculum/)

PROGRESSION PLAN

EXEMPLAR PLAN

PEDAGOGY

RESOURCES

9000+ MEMBERS

JOIN OUR  
CREATIVE  
COMMUNITY

18000 SUBSCRIBERS



CURATED SPACES

JOURNEYS

- DRAWING
- SKETCHBOOK

WHICH ARTISTS?

- PATHWAYS
- ARTIST BLOGS

RESOURCES

ACCESSART

INSPIRE + ENABLE OPEN ENDED LEARNING

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1105049

1200+ RESOURCES



CPD + INSET

- TICKETED EVENTS
- TAILORED CPD
- CONSULTANCY