

Using Artsbox with Arts Award case study

Centre: Metal

Adviser(s): Sarah Goldsmith, Tiffany Hughes

Level: Explore



Context

Metal is an arts organisation that provides support to artists and also creates large-scale, participatory projects that respond to the immediate environment and involve people of all ages and from all walks of life. They developed a pilot project for four Artsmark Gold schools, called Metal Artsbox Challenge, to deliver Arts Award Explore using Artsbox for evidencing. As part of this project they worked with 20 Year 5 pupils from Northwick Park Primary School, who are based in an area of social deprivation on Canvey Island, Essex. Metal Artsbox Challenge included a workshop from a Metal artist and the loan of The Travelling Box (an educational resource trunk).

Sarah Goldsmith is the Arts Award adviser at Northwick Park School and worked closely with Metal in delivering Arts Award to the class.

Arts Award delivery approach

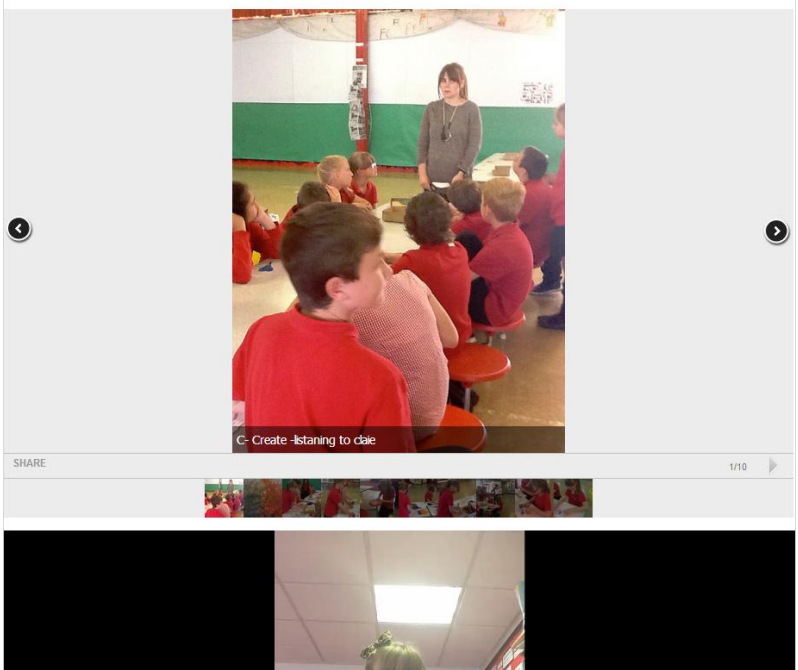
For **Part A** (inspire) the pupils explored the following questions in class through discussions: what are the arts? Where/how do they experience arts? How do the arts impact them? The pupils filmed themselves responding to the class discussions to put on their individual Artsbox pages. The pupils were also given the opportunity to explore art forms that interested them after looking through The Travelling Box created by Metal. This was a large wooden trunk of items and props. The children looked at the items in the box and discussed the stories behind them. They used these ideas to inspire their own work. They had free use of any art material in their school, use of the instruments in the music room and could work on their own or with any of their friends in the group to take part in arts activities. The most popular art forms were music and animation.

Part B (explore) was achieved through finding out more about Metal as an arts organisation and Claire Softly, a local artist. Both Metal and Claire visited the school to talk about their work. The pupils also looked at both the Metal website and Claire's website to research them further.

For **Part C** (create), the class worked with Claire Softly to create a

C- Create - my day with claire softly

this page is about our day we had with claire softly.



Emily's Explore Artsbox log, Part C

collage creature from textured and coloured papers which they tore and cut into interesting shapes.

Part D (present) was achieved through filmed and written interviews with each pupil. Sarah Goldsmith found Artsbox particularly useful for this instant reflective work, as they were able to film discussions pupils had with each other, which allowed them to feedback and explore ideas beyond those that they would have written down.

Strengths of Artsbox

Using Artsbox to build their arts logs really encouraged the pupils at Northwick Park Primary School to be independent and develop their own work. The school reported that the children who continued with their Artsbox logs at home really appreciated

D- Present

Reflections on work and arts box



Emily's Explore Artsbox log, Part D

doing so and made full use of this facility. For example, Emily, who is very interested in baking and cake design, added lots of her own photos from home onto her Artsbox profile and loved the freedom of doing this.

The school also found Artsbox particularly useful in enabling the participants to instantly add their views, thoughts, feelings and creative responses to their online logs. It also meant their arts logs were not text-heavy, which the teachers have often found excludes children who find writing more challenging, especially with Part D.

Tips to other advisers using Artsbox

- Read the [Artsbox adviser guidance](#) in plenty of time before the first session and try each step before you need to do it with the children! It is useful to understand what you need to do as an adviser and what your young people need to do as artists on Artsbox
- Give as much of the responsibility to the children that you can so that they take control of their own work and are aware of what is expected of them
- Keep on top of approving the children's work and get them to set up their pages as one of the first things they do

Comments

'I really enjoyed being able to explore what I wanted rather than having to do what I was told to all the time'

Taylor, Arts Award Explore achiever

'It was nice to be able to share what I do at home, the teachers had no idea how much time I spend on it!'

Emily, Arts Award Explore achiever

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