

ARTS, CREATIVITY AND CULTURAL EDUCATION COMMITMENT



Central Region
Schools Trust

Founded by the RSA

OUR COMMITMENT

At the Central Region Schools Trust (CRST), the arts are central to an excellent education. They are not an optional extra but a core entitlement for every pupil.

Through Art and Design, Photography and Design Technology, pupils learn to imagine, innovate and express themselves. The arts nurture confidence, resilience and joy, while also enabling pupils to explore identity, celebrate diversity, and challenge inequality. They develop critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration skills that prepare them for both creative and non-creative pathways.

As a Trust founded by the Royal Society of Arts, we honour our heritage by embedding creativity and cultural education into every aspect of school life. We believe that access to the arts is a driver of social justice, equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and cultural capital to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Our commitment ensures that every pupil experiences:

- A rich and inclusive curriculum that inspires curiosity and ambition.
- Meaningful enrichment opportunities that broaden horizons and deepen learning.
- Connections with people, places and processes that extend learning beyond the classroom and into the wider community.

This forms part of our CRST Enrichment Guarantee, ensuring every child benefits from memorable and transformative creative experiences that spark aspiration, build confidence, and open doors to future opportunities.



SUPPORTING SOCIAL JUSTICE

Teachers and Middle Leaders Commit to:

- Engaging Professional Artists and Designers by commissioning specialists to lead high-quality learning.
- Creating Collaborative Programmes by developing exhibitions, showcases and joint projects across schools.
- Involving Families by celebrating achievements and drawing on the skills and experiences of parents.
- Highlighting Creative Careers by linking learning to opportunities in creative industries.
- Utilising Local Cultural Resources by engaging with galleries, museums, and community initiatives.
- Collaborating Across the Trust by participating in competitions, arts days and joint initiatives.
- Pursuing Professional Development , embedding creativity and social justice in practice.

Pupils Commit to:

- Student Leadership in the Arts – with Arts Champions in every year group.
- Active Participation – engaging fully in curricular and extra-curricular opportunities.
- Pursuing Accreditation – gaining recognition through Arts Award and similar pathways.
- Building Alumni Connections – staying connected and promoting cultural progress after leaving school.

THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL SCHOOLS

Principals and Senior Leadership Teams Commit to:

- Developing a Strategic Plan – ensuring inclusive curricula, extra-curricular activities, and strong partnerships.
- Appointing Champions – designating staff to lead and advocate for the arts.
- Encouraging Accreditation – supporting schools, staff and pupils to achieve recognition.
- Providing Specialist Teaching – sharing expertise and resources across the Trust.
- Prioritising Professional Development – embedding creativity and equity into professional learning.

Governing Bodies Commit to:

- Strategic Integration – embedding arts, design and cultural education in school development plans.
- Appointing Champions – supporting arts leadership at governance level.
- Resourcing and Accountability – ensuring sufficient investment and equitable access.
- Tracking Participation – monitoring engagement, especially for disadvantaged pupils.
- Exploring Partnerships – working with organisations such as Arts Connect West Midlands to promote social justice.

The Trust Commits to:

- Building on RSA Foundations – sustaining innovation, creativity and social justice.
- Facilitating Collaboration – sharing resources and expertise across schools.
- Engaging Inspirational Figures – connecting pupils with professionals and mentors.
- Expanding Opportunities – fundraising for initiatives that widen participation.
- Research and Impact – evaluating the effect of arts education and sharing best practice.
- Annual Reviews – ensuring our commitments remain ambitious, inclusive and transformative.

Our Shared Purpose

By committing to these principles, the Central Region Schools Trust will provide a transformative arts education that empowers pupils to become creative, confident and socially conscious individuals – prepared not only to thrive in their futures, but to shape the communities and industries of tomorrow.



THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL SCHOOLS

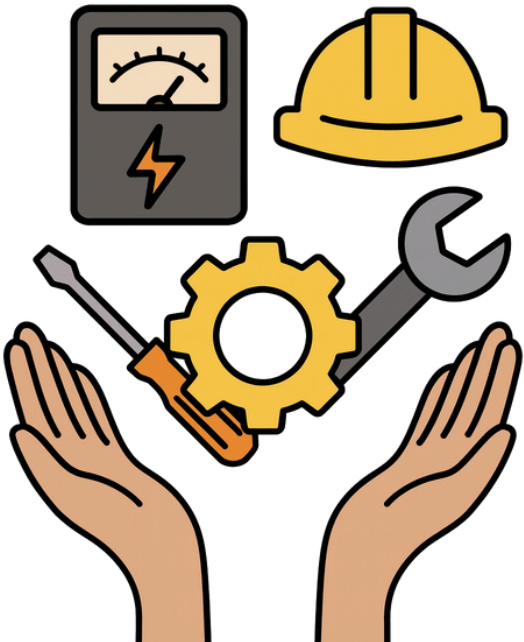
CREATIVE FUTURES

Our commitment goes beyond the classroom. Creative Futures is our programme to connect pupils with the breadth of careers and opportunities in the creative industries.

Pupils learn about pathways into careers in design, photography, product development, architecture, media, engineering and digital innovation.

We are building strong partnerships with universities,, creative organisations and professionals to broaden horizons and break down barriers to access. A key focus of Creative Futures is challenging stereotypes, widening participation and ensuring all pupils can see themselves in creative careers.

The UK’s creative industries are among the fastest-growing sectors, contributing significantly to culture, innovation and the economy. Through Creative Futures, we ensure our pupils understand the importance of these opportunities, feel valued, and are excited about the future and the possibilities open to them, with their voices amplified.



“DT has opened my eyes to how creative skills are used in technology, engineering and design. I can see myself doing this as a job in the future.”

SUPPORTING SOCIAL JUSTICE

CRST ARTS AWARD

The CRST Arts Award is the flagship celebration of our commitment. Each year, pupils from across all CRST schools showcase their talents in Art and Design, Photography and Design Technology.

Entries are brought together in Trust-wide exhibitions, giving pupils a platform to have their creativity recognised and celebrated.

The Award is more than a competition. It is:

- A celebration of achievement, recognising effort, imagination and excellence.
- A showcase of talent, sharing the creativity of our pupils with the wider community.
- An inspiration for others,, raising aspirations and encouraging future participation.
- An expression of inclusion, ensuring all pupils, regardless of background, can contribute and be recognised.
- A celebration of community, bringing pupils, families and staff together in pride and shared purpose.

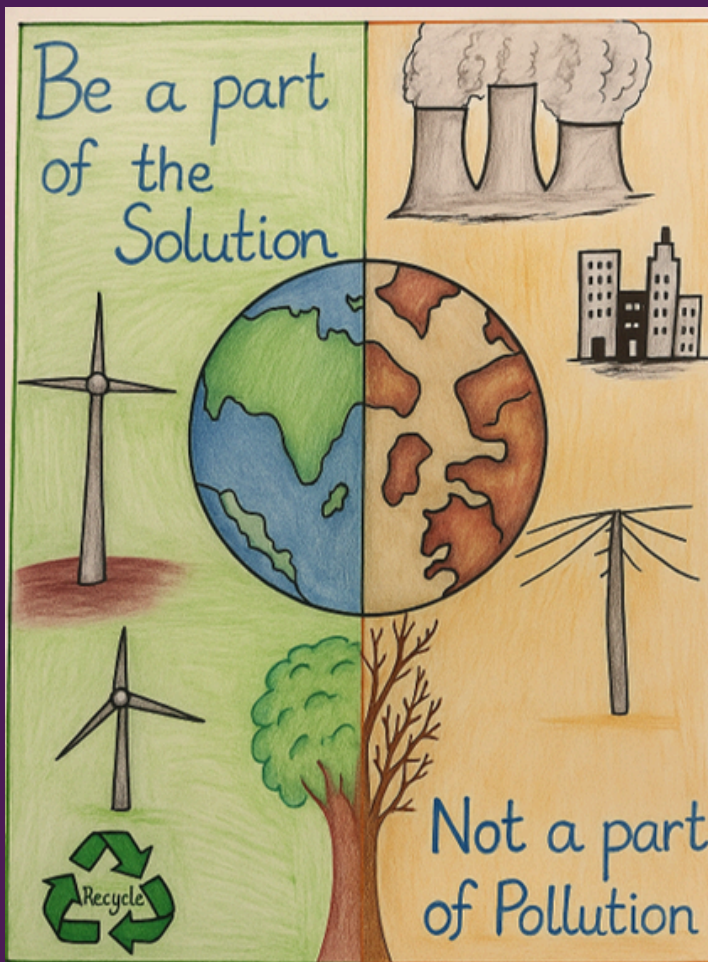
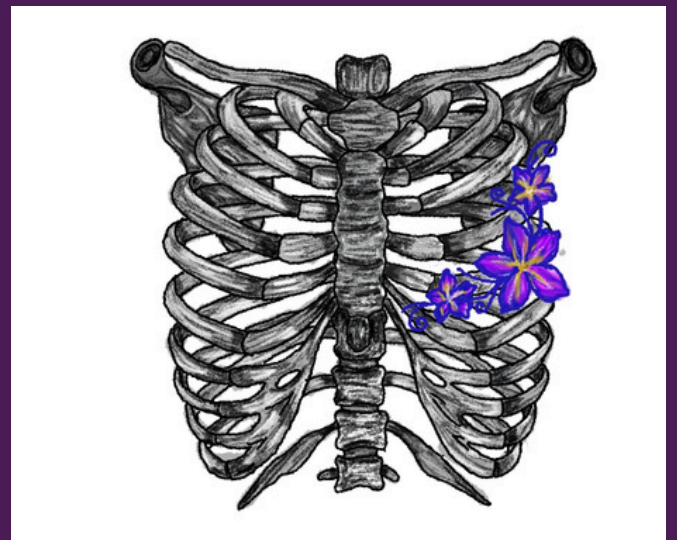
Certificates and trophies recognise winners, but all participants benefit from seeing their creativity valued and their voices amplified.

"I never imagined my artwork would be hanging in a gallery. Knowing people went to look at it made me feel proud of myself in a way I've never felt before."



THROUGH EXCEPTIONAL SCHOOLS







Central Region
Schools Trust

Founded by the RSA

