

What actually
happens in
Art Bytes?



Teachers' Guide 2026-7

 artbytes.co.uk  hello@artbytes.co.uk  0345 0176660  [artbytesUK](https://facebook.com/artbytesUK)  [artbytes](https://linkedin.com/company/artbytes)  [@artbytes_](https://instagram.com/artbytes_)

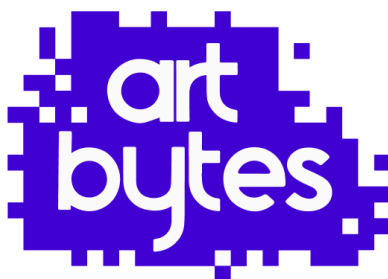
If you have any questions, please contact **your regional** Art Bytes coordinator.

helen@artbytes.co.uk (North West and West Midlands)

emily@artbytes.co.uk (North East, Yorkshire, East Midlands)

jane@artbytes.co.uk (South West, South East, East, Greater London).

General email is **hello@artbytes.co.uk** or if urgent call the dot-art Gallery **0345 017 6660**



Welcome to Art Bytes 2026-7 and thank you for registering your school!

We are very much looking forward to working with you and hope this pack will guide you through the process.

Please note we send regular group emails **via Mailchimp** to the main and alternate contact for each participating school with reminders, key dates, helpful instructions and resources. **Add hello@artbytes.co.uk to your email contacts now and make sure your IT Support allows Mailchimp, so it can get through your schools' Firewall.**

We aim to make participating in the Programme as easy as possible by providing you with this information pack.

Section 1: Action Calendar

Section 2: Preparing Student Entries

Section 3: Photographing Artworks

Section 4: Submitting Artworks

Section 5: Promoting the Vote

Section 6: The Celebration Events

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Appendix 1: The Process (Infographic to print and keep/display)

Appendix 2: The Journey (to print and keep/display)

Section 1: Action Calendar



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1. You sign up

Register your school and gain access to the programme, support, cpd, in person celebration events and virtual gallery.

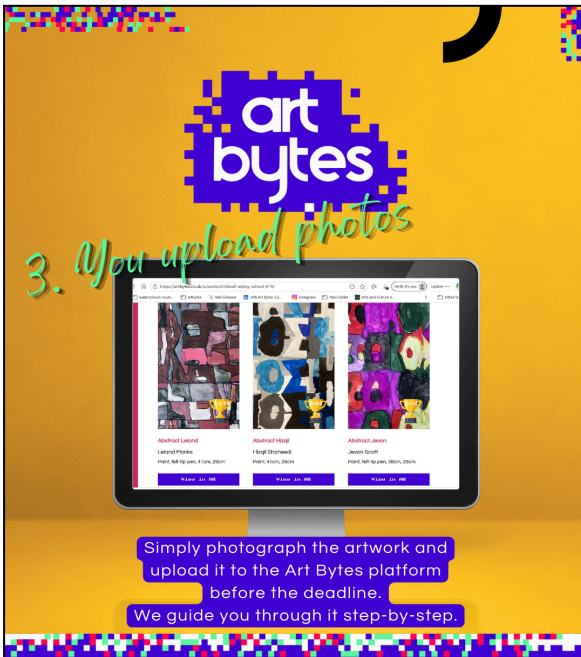
No complicated setup.
No pressure.
Just creativity.



art bytes

2. Create the artwork

Art Bytes fits into your existing curriculum.
Up to 30 pieces for yr 5 or yr 9:
Painting, drawing, collage, printmaking, mixed media or photography



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3. You upload photos

Simply photograph the artwork and upload it to the Art Bytes platform before the deadline.
We guide you through it step-by-step.



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4. Judging panel shortlist work

Arts professionals shortlist the top 3 entries from each school



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5. The public vote opens

Families, friends, and the wider school community vote for their favourite artwork, online. It becomes a real celebration of creativity



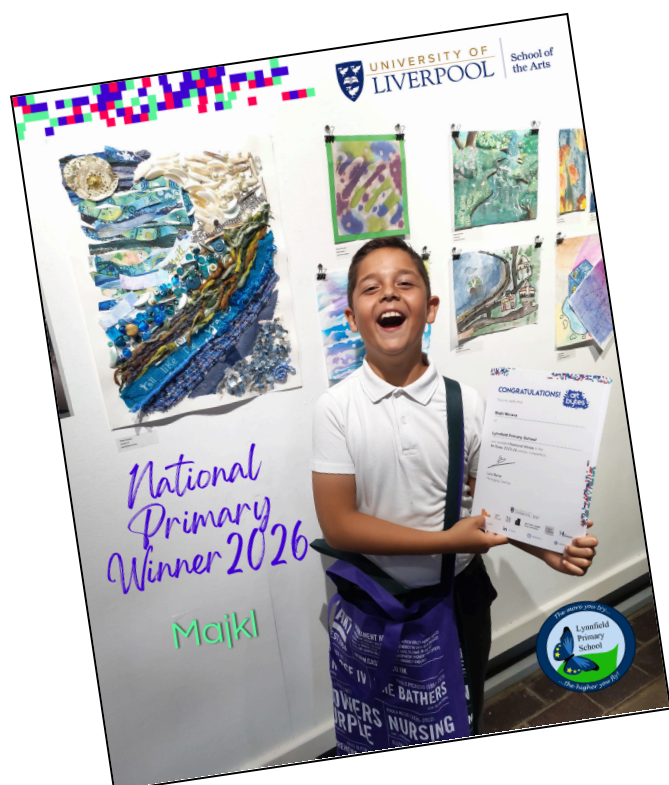
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6. Winners are celebrated

Regional and National winners are announced at celebration events, where prizes and certificates are given to participants. Hosted in incredible cultural venues across the country.

The Virtual Gallery 2027 opens AFTER winners are announced

Celebration Event photos are shared with you post-events.



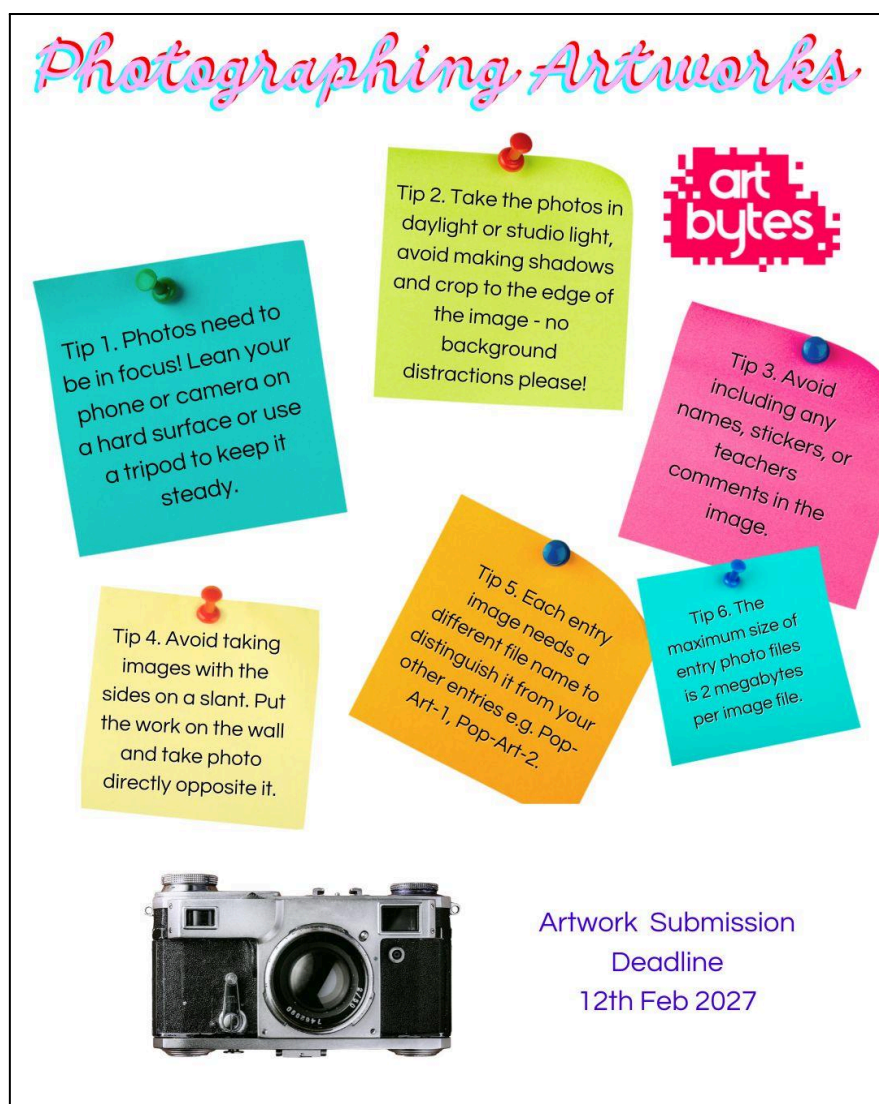
Section 2: Preparing Student Entries

- Only artwork created by students in Year 5 or Year 9 (or equivalent age range 9-10yrs or 13-14yrs) in the academic year of entry to the competition, is eligible.
- **One** entry per student. Please note that if students submit a group entry they *cannot* also submit an individual artwork. Any prize given would also need to be split between the group
- You will need to seek parental permissions for students to take part in the competition as names will be shown publicly, next to their artworks. *We do not provide parental permission templates as every school has a different process.*
- **Minimum of 3 entries** up to **maximum of 30**, per school (either Year 5 or Year 9).
- There is intentionally **no set theme for artworks** to fit with your existing art teaching and so students can express themselves how they wish.
- Artwork in **any fine art medium or technique** is acceptable. *However, we cannot accept photographic self-portraits of students for safeguarding reasons.*
- 2D or 3D artwork is permitted (please note all 3D work entries will be exhibited as a photograph).
- **All student entries must be their own original artwork**, created by that pupil and not substantially worked on by a teacher or parent/guardian, or created using AI. Any digital work must not copy or substantially contain another artist's imagery or designs. We cannot accept 3D work created using a pre-existing model kit (e.g. Warhammer Figures) Any uploaded work that does not adhere to these rules will be removed.
- **You** will need to submit photos of students' artworks **online** using our entry submission system.
- Entry details needed for the submission process are: Student Name, Title of artwork, Size (cm), Medium. We can accept *either* full first name + last name (e.g. Rosa L) initial OR initials (e.g. RL)
- Each photo of the students' entry must be a **jpeg file**, under 2MB. Please note that any images submitted that are over the 2MB limit will not show.
- Give all artwork a title - but keep this short (no more than three words ideally). **Artwork titles need to be different.** If you have several students with the same title for their work e.g. 'self-portrait' you need to add a number to the title (e.g. Self Portrait 2) to distinguish it from the other images.

Section 3: Photographing Artworks

The photographs you take of your student's artwork will feature on your schools' portfolio page on our website. **Once artworks have been uploaded, you cannot make edits to them.** This means that any images which are not centered or lit badly will remain that way.

As these images will be used for judging and one winner from each school will be exhibited in the Virtual Gallery **it's extremely important to take good photos of the artworks.** If you aren't confident with taking and editing photos, this is a FANTASTIC opportunity for students to take ownership of the programme and do this as a creative project, especially for Artsmark Schools. Alternatively, you could ask a staff member or parent to help – most smart phones have a decent camera which should be sufficient for capturing a clear image of the work.



Here is a link to a free, easy online bulk file re-sizer <https://imageresizer.com/bulk-resize>

Section 4: Submitting Artworks

Details to gather **before** you begin uploading the photos of your pupil's artworks.

You will need:

- Parental permissions on how the student name should be presented, either:
Full first name + last name initial (e.g. Rosa L) OR Initials only (e.g RL)
- Title of each artwork being entered*
- Size of the work in cm
- Medium it was created with e.g. mixed media collage, pencil drawing

*Keep artwork titles short (no more than three words ideally). If you have several students with the same title for their work e.g. 'self-portrait' you need to add a number to the title (e.g. Self Portrait 2) to distinguish it from the other images.

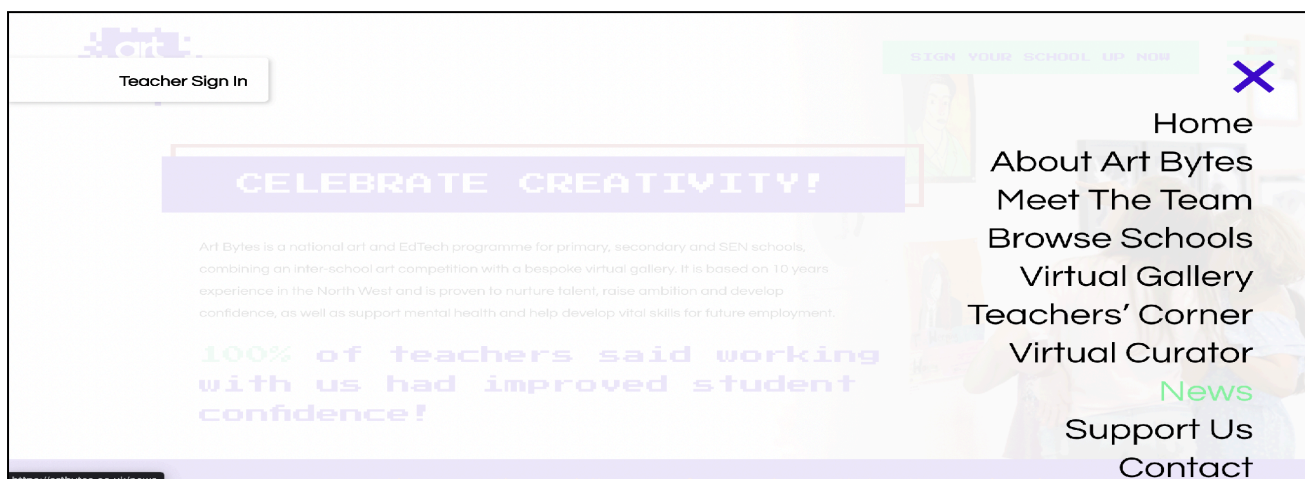
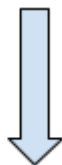
**Ensure the images are formatted correctly, a jpeg file under 2MB

Step 1. Logging into the Teacher Account

Once you have registered **and been approved as a user**, you can log in via [Teachers Sign In](#) on the Art Bytes website

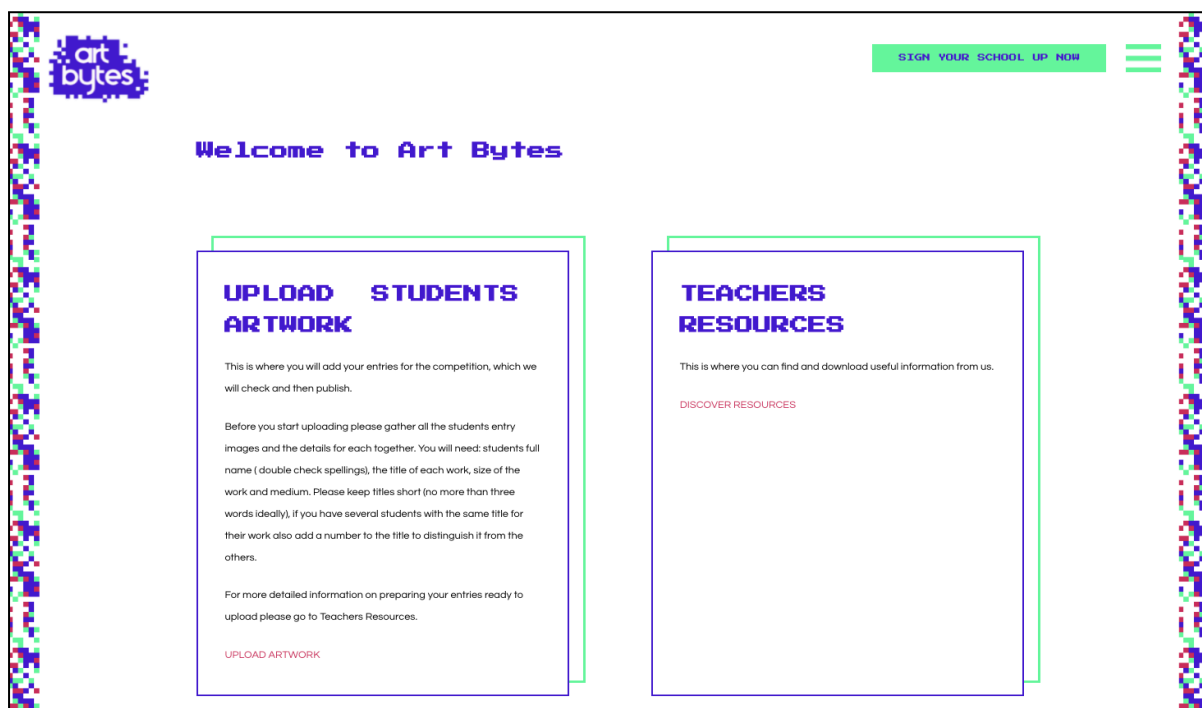
You will use the **same email address** and **password** you created when you completed the **registration form**. If you have forgotten your password, you can reset it via the website when you try to log in. The reset email may go in your spam junk folder so do check there first. **Any log in issues email your regional coordinator.**

CLICK HERE



Uploading Artwork Entries

- When you are logged in via teacher sign in, go to the 'Upload Artwork' page.



- Enter each students' artwork details individually in the form and upload the file when prompted. ***Please check and add which region your school is in. You won't be able to add the image until you select the region!**

YOUR SCHOOL

ArtBytes-Admin

STUDENT NAME *

ART WORK NAME *

YEAR GROUP *

5

IMAGE HEIGHT (CM) *

cm

IMAGE WIDTH (CM) *

cm

REGION *

Please select

MEDIUM *

Submit

- Repeat the process for each student entry (max. 30 in total and one artwork per student). You should be able to see a table with a thumbnail image and the entry details, as you add them. If the image is missing from the table, this means the image file has not been uploaded successfully. *This is usually because the file size is too big (over 2MB) or the wrong format (jpegs only accepted).*

- Each piece of artwork will be checked and approved by Art Bytes before it appears on the webpage. If there are any issues with the artworks as they are being uploaded, your regional coordinator will be in touch.
- The entries will be published on your school's page on the Art Bytes website (along with all the other schools' work) after every school's work has been checked and approved. There are a LOT of artworks for us to check which will take a few weeks, so please be patient!
- You can return to the website before the deadline date and add more entries in another session, as long as there are no more than the maximum of 30 entries per school and only **one entry per pupil**.

Submitting School Information

To ensure your school webpage appears on our website, you will need to upload the following **for each year your school enters the competition**.

- School logo (jpeg file)
- Website address (use full URL)
- A descriptive text about your school*

*This is a chance for you to *promote your school* (e.g. use school bio) and *visual arts in your school*. To do this, you click the button "[Update School Information](#)" after you have clicked on "[Upload Artwork](#)", via the Teacher Sign In.



[SIGN YOUR SCHOOL UP NOW](#)


PLEASE UPLOAD YOUR ARTWORKS HERE

Before you begin submitting work it's best to have all the details ready as well as the image files.
You will need to know: full name of student, title of artwork, artwork media and dimensions in centimetres. Files should be JPGs.

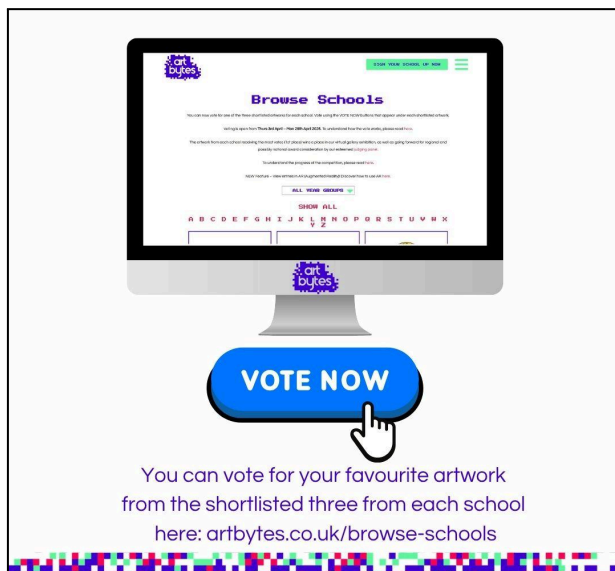
[Add a Students artwork below](#)

To ensure your school webpage appears on our website please add your school logo, website URL and short description text.

[UPDATE YOUR SCHOOL INFORMATION](#)

Section 5: Promoting the Vote

This is where your whole school community can support the young artists whose work has been shortlisted 1-3rd place and VOTE to choose the winner who goes through to the next stage!



Anyone (including the wider public) can vote for a shortlisted entry.

- To vote, click on the VOTE NOW button under the shortlisted artwork on any school page.
- You will be asked to enter an email address and a confirmation email will be sent to that address.
- **You must click CONFIRM VOTE in the email otherwise your vote is not counted.**
- If a voter changes their mind they can simply vote again as it will cancel the previous vote. One email address gets one vote.

Read about the voting process [HERE](#)

Watch a video that takes you through the voting process step by step [HERE](#)

Download the letter to parents about the VOTE [HERE](#)

Tips for promoting the vote:

- Let pupils, staff and parents know about your involvement in Art Bytes as early as possible to ensure your school community understands the process.
- You might want to select a group of pupils (the shortlisted artists themselves are a good start!) to take ownership of promoting the public vote in the school and community.

- They could make short videos talking about creativity or sharing photos of their process of making their shortlisted artworks and share this via the school social media or newsletters. Remember to tag Art Bytes if shared on socials (see below)
- We will email you a voting poster which you can share online or print out and post around the school.
- For a better understanding of the **Power of the Public Vote**, please follow the link to our [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) page:

Tag us on socials to promote the public vote:

https://www.instagram.com/artbytes_/

<https://www.facebook.com/ArtBytesUK/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/artbytes/>

Don't forget that the Primary and Secondary School who get the MOST votes nationally WIN the COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRIZE!!



Section 6: The Celebration Events

In June 2027 (exact dates to be confirmed) **8 Regional Celebration Events take place at Cultural Venues all over England** to celebrate Art Bytes! You will be invited to attend your nearest venue, along with the 1st - 3rd place winners from your schools. We hope parents can be invited too although this will depend on the capacity of each individual venue.

During the Celebration Events, students get to see their work exhibited in the gallery, take part in workshops or tours and receive certificates as part of a presentation & [prize giving](#).

During the Presentation we reveal the REGIONAL Primary and Secondary winners (top secret until then!) as well as the NATIONAL Primary and Secondary winners for Art Bytes 2027!

We have some great prizes for winners and **all 1st place school winners** get to see their work exhibited in our [VIRTUAL GALLERY](#) for the next 12 months.

The 2025-6 venue partners were:

North West - The Harris, Preston
 West Midlands - New Art Gallery Walsall
 North East - The Arts Centre Washington
 Yorks & Humber - Leeds Art Gallery
 East Midlands - Usher Art Gallery, Lincoln
 East- Kettle's Yard, Cambridge
 South West - The Holburne, Bath
 London & South East - National Gallery and St Martin-in-the Fields.

We are in the process of confirming venues for 2027 and will inform you as soon as these are confirmed. If you wish to *pencil the dates* then we are hoping the Celebration Events will take place on 16th & 17th June 2027



For those schools who are unable to attend an event in person, we offer the option of joining a LIVESTREAM event from ONE of the venues. This means you have the option of setting up a 'watch party' in your school and being part of the event as you discover who has won the coveted title of National Primary & Secondary winner 2027!

Section 7: Augmented Reality Feature (AR)

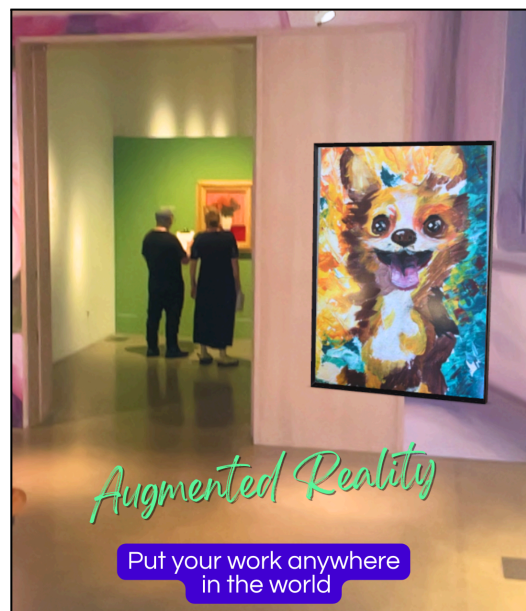
While our Virtual Gallery can only showcase one winning artwork per school, our AR technology ensures **every single student who submits artwork becomes an exhibited artist.**

[Augmented Reality \(AR\)](#) allows you to see the amazing artworks created by talented students displayed virtually in your space – whether that's in your school, at home, or anywhere else!

How to View Artworks in AR:

1. **Find an Artwork** – [Browse the school's gallery](#) on the Art Bytes website and select a piece you love.
2. **Click “View in AR”** – Underneath the artwork, you'll see a “View in AR” button. Click it to start.
3. **Pick a Frame Colour** – Before launching AR, choose the colour of the frame you want your artwork to appear in. This step lets you personalise the display to suit your space and style.
4. **Use Your Phone** –
 - a. **On a Phone/Tablet:** Follow the on-screen instructions to see the artwork appear in your space.
 - b. **On a Laptop/Desktop:** Scan the QR code displayed on the screen with your phone camera, then follow the link provided.
5. **Enjoy and Share!** – Once the artwork appears, move your device to place it and then adjust it in your space by moving and pinching your fingers. Take a screenshot of your favourite setup and share how the artwork looks displayed in your school, home, or anywhere else you like!

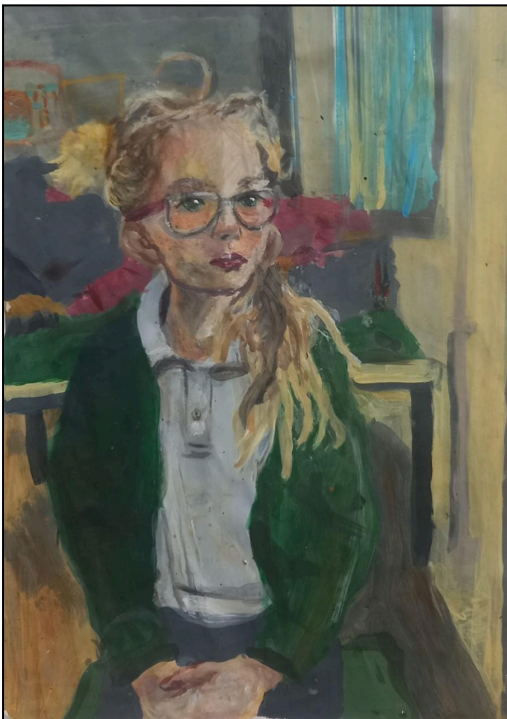
This new feature is a fantastic way to bring art to life and celebrate creativity in exciting, interactive ways.



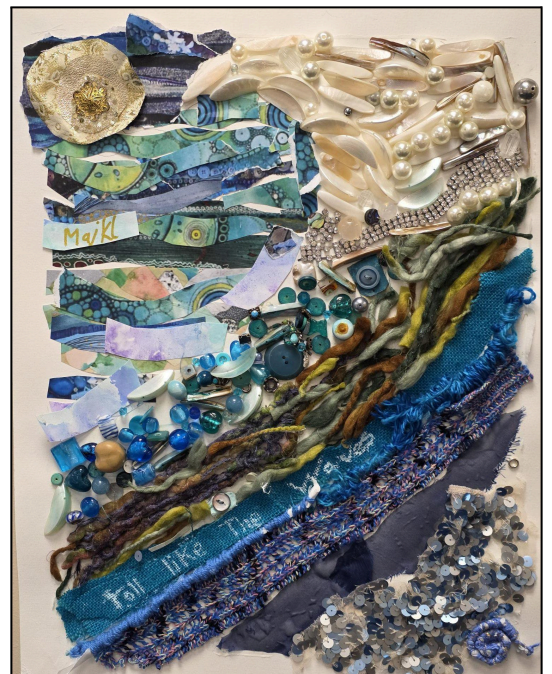
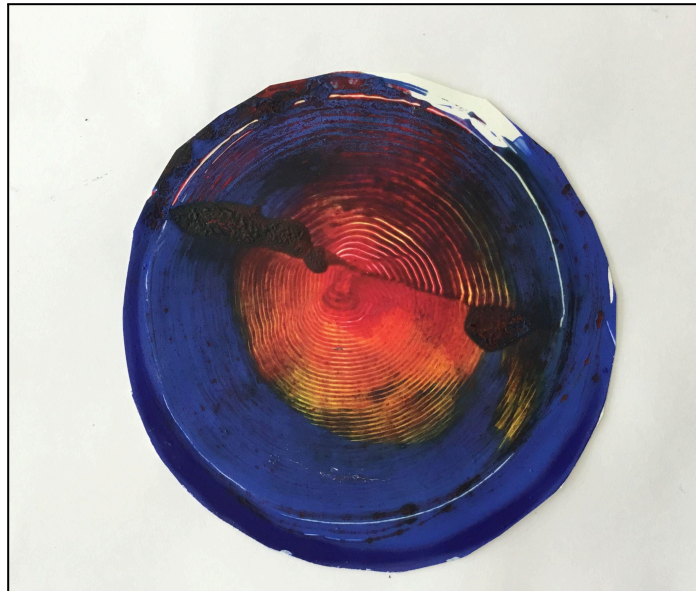
Section 8: Top Tips/Best Practice

Art Bytes has been designed to give you and your students flexibility which is why we don't have a THEME each year or set a brief. Some teachers enter work that students have done at an extra-curricular art club, or at different times throughout the year as part of schemes of work within their curriculum. It is, however, recommended that student work shows some originality - where possible, try to avoid uploading 30 very similar pieces as that can make the judging (and voting) process quite difficult!

Examples of highly imaginative & creative work submitted in previous years can be seen below:



Art Bytes is a chance for your students to really show us their creativity so let them dare to be different!

Section 9: Previous National Year 5 Winning Art Works

Previous National Year 9 Winning Art Works



Appendix 1: The Process (to print and keep/display)



Appendix 2: The Journey (to print and keep/display)

THE ART BYTES JOURNEY

SEPTEMBER

TILL DECEMBER SCHOOLS SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE

Students create artwork throughout the autumn term.

MARCH JUDGING PANEL SHORTLISTS TOP 3 ENTRIES

A judging panel of respected artists and arts professionals selects the top 3 artworks from each school to go into the online public vote.

MAY REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WINNERS SELECTED

Our judging panel reconvenes selects regional and national winners in each age group, from the winners of the public vote from each school, recognising exceptional creativity and artistic achievement.

FEBRUARY SCHOOLS SUBMIT PHOTOGRAPHS OF STUDENTS' ARTWORKS

Teachers photograph and upload up to 30 of their students' creative works to our online platform by February half-term. There is no theme, and work can be in any 2D media. Once your school's page is online, EVERY child's work can be viewed in Augmented Reality (AR).

APRIL PUBLIC VOTING OPENS ONLINE

The whole community gets involved! Students, families, and supporters vote online for their favourite shortlisted artwork. This builds engagement and gives students authentic audience feedback.

The artwork with the most votes from each school wins a place in our spectacular Virtual Gallery, ensuring every participating school is represented. Each school's winner progresses to the next stage of judging.

JUNE CELEBRATION EVENTS!

In June, shortlisted students, families and teachers gather at prestigious cultural venues across England's nine regions. Regional and national winners are announced, certificates presented, and the Virtual Gallery launches. Schools can also livestream or replay the events.

JULY

