



Every child is born with creative potential. Sadly, many may never get the opportunity to fulfil it.

Our mission at Cotswolds Arts Through Schools is to provide those opportunities.

With your support, we can develop the children's love for the arts and unlock our future generation's creative potential.

The Cotswolds Arts Through Schools Project

The Cotswold Arts Through Schools (CATS) project is a partnership of local arts organisations dedicated to bringing art, music, drama, dance and speaking (oracy) into our local schools.



CATS aim to place professional artists in schools to upskill teachers and provide inspiring experiences for children.

Why Is It Important?

Arts education fosters a life-long interest in culture and creates career opportunities and improves academic performance.

The study of art enables pupils to understand, appreciate and contribute to a dimension of life that taps into and expresses human innovation, imagination and thought.



In the same way that we teach children literacy and numeracy to prepare them for adult life, we must also give them the confidence to experiment creatively and explore. For some, creativity will be the foundation of a career; for others, it will be a vital tool to solve challenges they will face tomorrow. For many, it will simply be a source of joy, comfort, and companionship throughout their lives.

How Your Support Will Make a Difference?

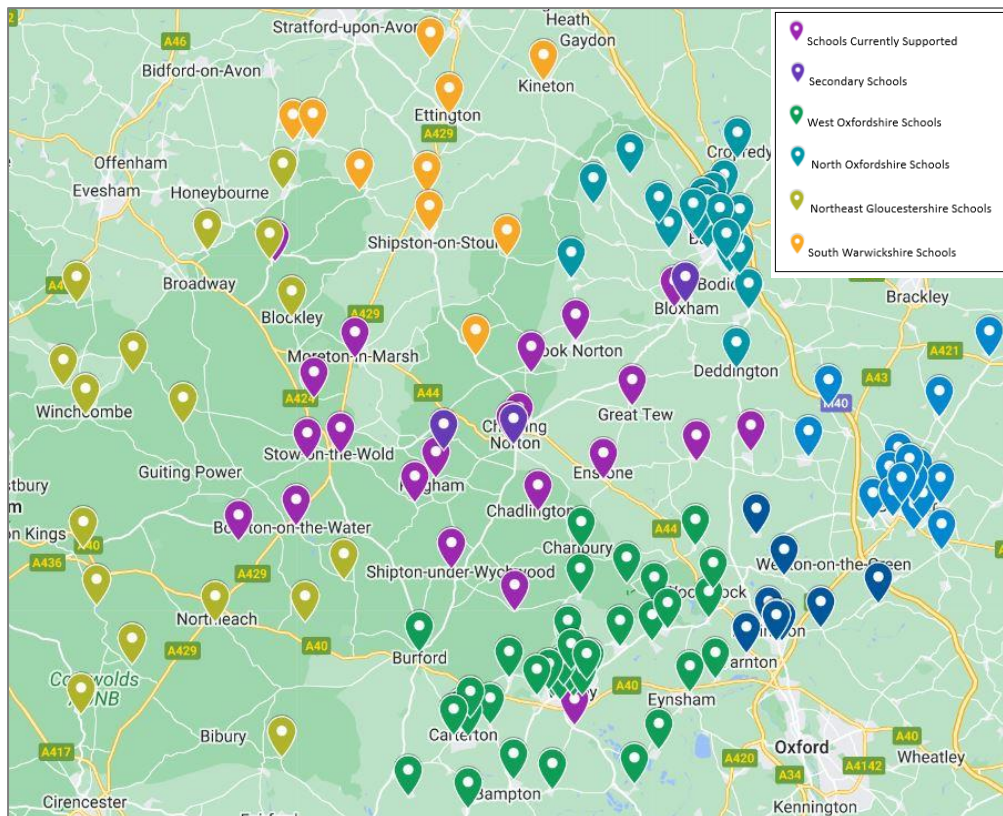
CATS has launched a crowdfunding campaign and by supporting our crowdfunding campaign, you will contribute to:

- *Bringing role models into schools to support teachers and pupils with creative activities in art, music, drama, dance, and oracy.*
- *Reaching children from diverse backgrounds, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility.*
- *Establishing after-school clubs and whole school experiences.*
- *Collaborating with local specialists and the wider community to create a vibrant arts community.*
- *Filling classrooms with art resources and musical instruments to help pupils explore their creativity.*



Impact

CATS currently supports 26 schools and with additional funding we are looking to support more schools across north Oxfordshire, south Warwickshire, and northeast Gloucestershire.



Why Are We Fundraising?

Our successful pilot projects over the last 2 years have shown:

- *We are responding to a local need for enhanced arts education.*
- *Post Covid many children are experiencing mental health challenges and there has been a significant increase in absenteeism. Evidence shows engagement with the arts improves mental health and well-being as well as academic attainment.*
- *Art and culture contribute £10.6 billion to the UK economy, and help tackle social injustice.*



Tightening school budgets are squeezing art and creativity out of the curriculum. If we want pupils to flourish, to be creative and solve the challenges of the future we must invest in this creativity.

Testimonials

The feedback has been incredibly positive. The children love it, the staff are delighted, and parents are very appreciative that their children are so enthused about a school subject!

Malia took part in creating a sculpture exhibited at one of CATS' partner the Sculpture at Kingham Lodge (SAKL) show in 2023. She came with the school before the show and then brought her parents to see her work. Greeted at the door she was asked if she had helped make a sculpture – a timid nod. Which school – Kingham. What had she made – a bee. She was then greeted as an artist, hand shaken, told what an honour it was to meet an exhibiting artist. Malia grew inches and beamed. For the next two weeks she was telling her parents daily she was an artist!

In all the exhibiting schools, teachers are reporting the enthusiasm and excitement art now generates having seen their work at a professional show.



A young teacher said she could not cope with the new intake of 4/5 year old children post-pandemic. An experienced teacher was assigned. She said the children were feral – bit, kicked, jumped on desks, could not verbalise and were anti-social. This was the result of lockdowns and no nursery schools. For the first few weeks she used the materials in the art cupboard filled by CATS' partner the Sculpture at Kingham Lodge (SAKL) to do art. The children could express their feelings on paper, started to chat, could sit, and work together. She said it was art that made everything possible.



Harry had not wanted to go to school post-pandemic. He was nervous and anxious. The one day of the week he has started to come, is the day that starts with drama, which he loves. He then stays for the whole day's lessons.

Thank you for your support!

Your support is vital in making a lasting impact on the lives of children in our community. Join us in fostering a love for the arts and contributing to the development of their creative potential.

Thank you for being a part of the CATS journey.



Together, we can make a difference.

Contact Details:

info@cotswoldsartsthroughschools.com

www.cotswoldsartsthroughschools.com

01608 658 226

Christopher Stockwell (Trustee)

Like – our crowdfunding page

Spare – a few pounds to support the cause

Share – with your friends far and wide



To make a donation please visit:

www.spacehive.com/cotswolds-arts-through-schools