



Assistant Arts Practitioner

Arts & Science Schools Programme (Wavelength)

Exploring Science Through the Arts

About the Project

Independent Arts is seeking two enthusiastic and curious Assistant Arts Practitioners to join our innovative Arts & Science in Schools programme, funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

The programme will deliver two-term artist residencies in primary schools across the Isle of Wight, in the Spring and Summer terms of 2027 and 2028, working with children in years 3–6. Each residency is linked to the Key Stage 2 Arts and Science curriculum and uses arts-led practical learning to enable children to explore, question and understand scientific ideas through making, experimentation and creative enquiry.

Working alongside experienced Lead Arts Practitioners, Assistant Arts Practitioners will play an important role in creating rich, inclusive and engaging learning experiences for children.

We are looking for people who are passionate about the arts, interested in science and curious about how artistic processes can open up new ways of understanding the world.

This is a paid development opportunity and we welcome applications from people at all stages of their careers. This could include emerging practitioners, experienced artists looking to develop their practice in education, or people bringing relevant experience and transferable skills from other creative or educational settings.

The Role

As an Assistant Artist Practitioner, you will work alongside a Lead Arts Practitioner to support the planning, delivery and evaluation of a two-term arts and science residency within two primary schools. The residencies will run as 2 x half days direct delivery in two schools per week within the Spring and Summer terms, with 24 additional weekly hours per school per term for planning. A paid training and launch event is planned for the Autumn term (2026).

Your role extends beyond supporting classroom activities. You will contribute to planning and preparation, help develop practical activities and resources, reflect on children's learning and work collaboratively with the Lead Arts Practitioner, teachers and Independent Arts' project management team.

In school, you will provide additional practical and one-to-one support to children, helping every pupil to participate fully and confidently. You will encourage children to explore their own ideas, ask questions, experiment with materials and processes, and make connections between arts practice and scientific enquiry.

Salary: £25 per hour

We are committed to being a Fair Pay Employer. The rate for our Artist Assistant position is benchmarked against industry standards to ensure we are transparent, equitable, and competitive.

Key Responsibilities

- Support the planning and delivery of engaging, arts-led Arts & Science sessions in primary schools.
- Encourage children of all abilities to participate confidently in practical arts activities.
- Provide focused one-to-one and small-group support where needed.
- Help children develop their own ideas and approaches to making and experimentation.
- Contribute ideas to the planning and development of sessions alongside the Lead Arts Practitioner.
- Prepare, organise and maintain materials, equipment and learning environments.
- Help adapt activities in response to children's interests, strengths and emerging ideas.
- Participate in consultation, reflection and evaluation with Lead Arts Practitioners, teachers and the Independent Arts project management team.
- Contribute to documenting children's learning and project outcomes through photography, displays, notes or other appropriate methods.
- Attend project meetings, training and professional development opportunities.
- Follow safeguarding, health and safety and school procedures at all times.

Person Specification**Essential**

- A passion for the arts and an enthusiasm for engaging children in learning.
- Experience in one or more arts disciplines, including visual arts, craft, theatre, music, dance, design, photography or digital arts.
- An interest in science and curiosity about how the arts can provide different ways of exploring scientific ideas and understanding the world.
- A warm, encouraging and patient approach to working with children.
- The ability to work collaboratively as part of a team.
- Good organisational and time-management skills.
- A reflective approach and willingness to learn from others.
- Reliability, flexibility and professionalism.
- Willingness to undertake an Enhanced DBS check.
- Ability to travel to schools across the Isle of Wight.

Desirable

- Experience of working with children or young people.
- Understanding of primary education or the Key Stage 2 curriculum.
- Experience of inclusive practice and supporting children with a range of learning needs.

- **Hours**

2 x 1 half day per week delivery during term time (in two schools) together with some additional hours for planning and attendance time for training and launch event in the autumn term to be agreed.

The working day will be divided between:

Half a day in school

Supporting the Lead Arts Practitioner to deliver arts-led learning sessions with pupils.

Flexible additional hours for planning, preparation and consultation

Working with Lead Arts Practitioners, school staff and the Independent Arts project management team on planning, preparation, reflection and evaluation.

Each Assistant Arts Practitioner will support two Lead Arts Practitioners across two partner schools during the academic year.

What We Offer

- A paid opportunity to develop your arts practice within an innovative Arts & Science schools programme.
- Mentoring and support from experienced Lead Arts Practitioners and the Independent Arts project team.
- Experience of delivering high-quality, curriculum-linked artist residencies in primary schools.
- Time for planning, reflection and professional development as an integral part of the role.
- Opportunities to learn alongside artists, teachers and children.
- A supportive and collaborative working environment.
- The opportunity to contribute to an innovative approach to arts-led learning and inspire children's curiosity about both the arts and science.