



Lead Arts Practitioner

Arts & Science Schools Programme (Wavelength)

Exploring Science Through the Arts

About the Project

Independent Arts is seeking experienced and enthusiastic Lead Arts Practitioners to deliver our innovative Arts & Science in Schools programme; Wavelength, funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

The programme delivers 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 artistic enquiry.

We are looking for practitioners who are passionate about the arts, interested in science and excited by the possibilities of using artistic processes to explore scientific ideas and concepts.

The Lead Arts Practitioner will work as part of a collaborative project team, alongside the Creative Director, Creative Producer, school staff and an Assistant Arts Practitioner, to develop and deliver each residency.

The Role

As a Lead Arts Practitioner, you will lead the delivery of a two-term arts and science residency within a primary school. The residencies will run in the Spring and Summer terms of 2027 and 2028, with one half day direct delivery per week. There will be an additional paid 24 additional weekly hours per school per term for planning. A paid training and launch event is planned for the Autumn term (2026 and 2027).

You will work closely with the Creative Director and Creative Producer at Independent Arts to develop the content and artistic approach for the residency, drawing on your own artistic practice, knowledge and experience. This process will be co-created with the partner school, ensuring that the programme responds to its curriculum priorities, the interests and needs of its pupils and the particular context of the school.

The emphasis is on exploring science through the arts, rather than simply illustrating or

communicating scientific information. You will use artistic processes, materials and ways of thinking to create opportunities for children to investigate, experiment, question and make discoveries.

You will lead the delivery of the residency and develop the work in response to children's ideas and discoveries, supported by an Assistant Arts Practitioner.

Planning, preparation, consultation and reflection are integral to the programme. You will work collaboratively with the Creative Director, Creative Producer, school staff and Associate Arts Practitioner throughout the residency to develop, review and adapt the programme.

Salary: £31.25 per hour

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

Key Responsibilities

Artistic Development and Co-creation

- Work collaboratively with the Creative Director and Creative Producer to develop the content, structure and artistic approach for the residency.
- Contribute your own artistic expertise, ideas and practice to the development of the programme.
- Work with partner schools to co-create a programme that responds to their curriculum priorities, pupils and school context.
- Develop imaginative, practical and exploratory arts activities that create meaningful connections with scientific ideas.
- Ensure the arts remain central to the learning experience while making purposeful connections with science.
- Respond creatively to children's interests, questions and emerging discoveries.
- Contribute to the ongoing development of the wider Arts & Science programme through reflection and shared learning.

Delivery

- Lead full morning weekly arts and science sessions within the partner school. Create an inclusive, supportive and stimulating learning environment.
- Encourage participation from all children and adapt approaches to accommodate different abilities, interests and learning needs.
- Work closely with the Assistant Arts Practitioner to ensure children receive appropriate individual and small-group support.
- Manage materials, equipment and resources required for sessions.
- Ensure sessions are delivered safely and in accordance with school and Independent

Arts procedures.

Collaboration and Consultation

Work closely with the Creative Director and Creative Producer throughout the residency. Consult regularly with teachers to understand curriculum objectives and respond to the developing needs of the school.

Participate in planning, reflection and evaluation meetings with the Independent Arts project management team.

Share learning, ideas and effective approaches with other practitioners working on the programme.

Documentation and Evaluation

- Document children's learning and creative development through appropriate photography, written observations, displays and other agreed methods.
- Contribute to project evaluation and reporting.
- Reflect on your practice and the development of the residency.
- Contribute examples of children's work and learning to project documentation and celebration where appropriate.
- Help identify learning from the residency.

Person Specification

Essential

- Established experience as an arts practitioner or artist with a strong creative practice.
- Experience of developing and delivering participatory arts projects, workshops or learning programmes.
- A genuine enthusiasm for working with children and young people. An interest in science and curiosity about how the arts can provide different ways of exploring scientific ideas and understanding the world.
- Ability to develop imaginative, practical and exploratory arts activities.
- Ability to translate your artistic ideas and processes into accessible experiences for children.
- Ability to work collaboratively with artists, teachers, children and project teams.
- A reflective and responsive approach to practice.
- Commitment to inclusive arts practice.
- Good organisational and time-management skills.
- Willingness to undertake an Enhanced DBS check and training ahead of the programme.
- Ability to travel to schools across the Isle of Wight.

Desirable

- Experience of working within primary schools.
- Experience of working with the KS2 curriculum.
- Experience of arts and science or interdisciplinary practice..
- Experience of working with children with additional or diverse learning needs.
- Teaching, education or learning experience.