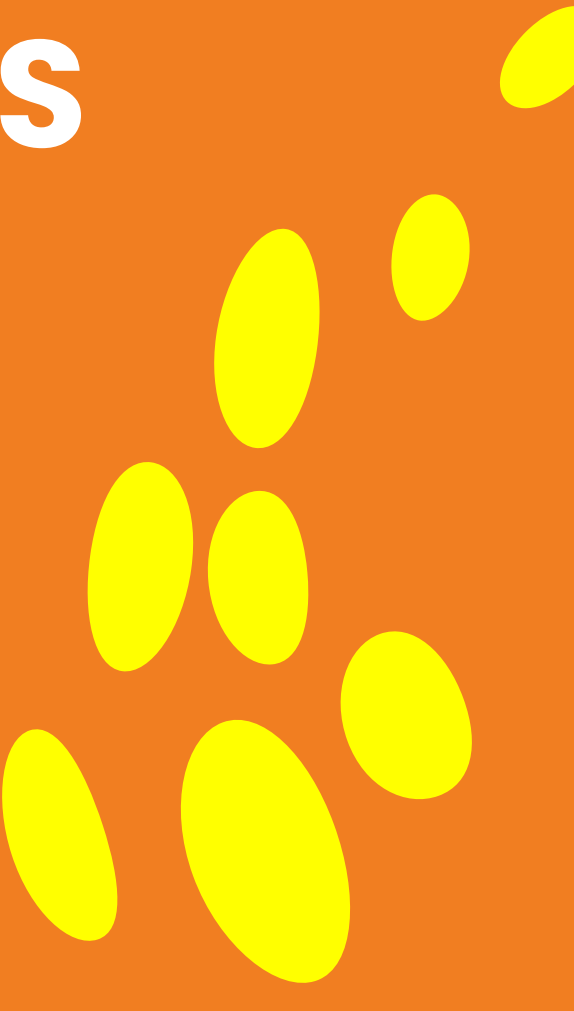
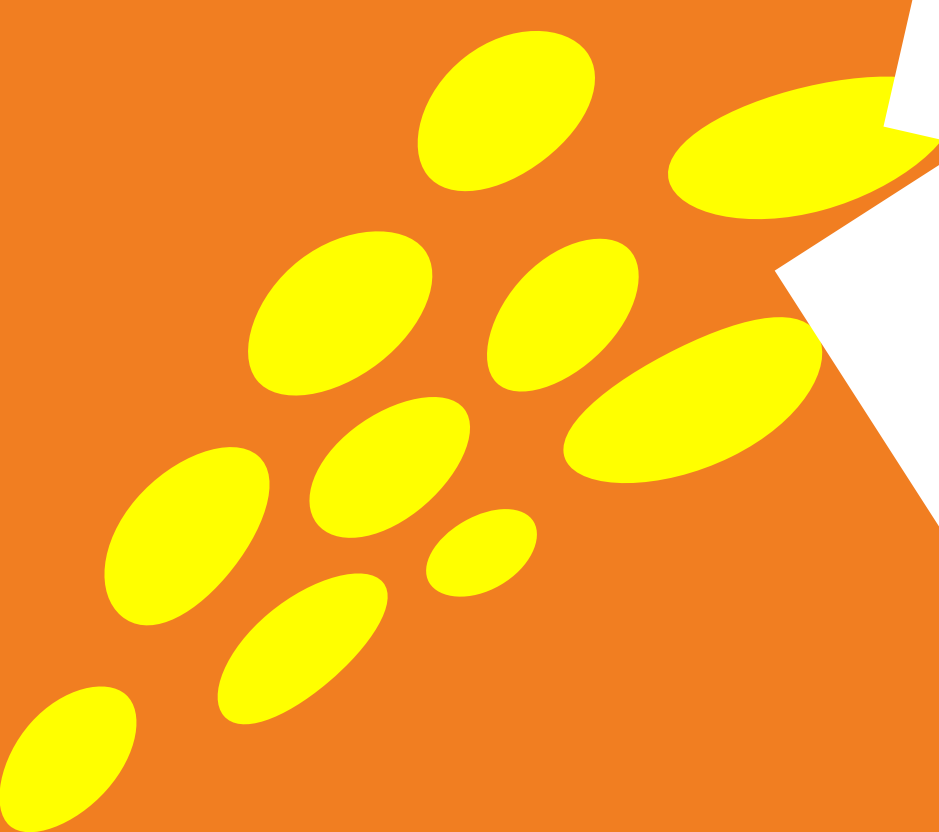




**A NEW
DIRECTION**

for
**Primary
Arts**

2026/27

PRIMARY ARTS: IN-SCHOOLS TOURING

In-Schools Touring

Primary Arts In-Schools Touring brings high quality arts experiences into your school through performances and workshops for pupils, supported by teacher CPD and a range of additional resources.

Ten cultural organisations are working with us to deliver the programme; their offers are outlined on the pages that follow. Activity will take place in Spring Term 2: February/ March 2027.

Participating schools receive:

- A **performance** (or experience) lasting around 1 hour, for **all classes in one year group**.
- An **in-class workshop** lasting 45 minutes to 1 hour, for each class in the same year group, that further explores the artform, themes and curriculum areas linked to the performance.
- A teacher **twilight CPD** session lasting 1 to 1.5 hours, held in your school during the month before the performance. This will support preparation, whole-school engagement, and teacher and pupil learning.
- A range of **resources** to support communication and learning about the performance, including information for pupils, staff and families, and classroom activities.
- A **box of creative materials** worth around £250 to support creative classroom activities.
- **Booklists** linked to the programme, curated by the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education.
- A **set of books** worth around £150 to support reading for pleasure linked to the programme.

Access & Inclusion

Each offer is suitable for at least one Key Stage and can be adapted to work for pupils with additional needs whether in mainstream or SEND settings. Where needed, we will liaise with your school to ensure that the programme is inclusive for all your participating pupils.

Inclusion adaptations for each offer are flagged using this symbol:



If you need more information about inclusion, please contact us by emailing schools@anewdirection.org.uk.

Eligibility

Primary Arts is open to **all state primary schools and some special schools in London**. It is designed to include children in all primary year groups from Reception to Year 6 in mainstream and special schools, and most offers should also be suitable for older pupils in SEND settings if they are learning using primary curriculum content. **Your school must be in a London borough** to be eligible for the programme.

If your school or a member of your staff is participating in another area of the Primary Arts programme, you are still eligible to make a booking request for In-Schools Touring.

How to Make a Booking Request

Only one In-Schools Touring booking will be considered per school per year.

There are places available for 120 schools on In-Schools Touring in 2026/27. We will prioritise schools that have not previously taken part. If your school participated in In-Schools Touring between 2023 and 2026, you might not be allocated a place this year, but we warmly encourage you to still submit a booking request.

Please read the descriptions carefully on the pages that follow, consider your school's needs and interests, and identify your first and second choice of offer. Please ensure the offer you are interested in is suitable for the year group you would like to take part.

When you are ready, please log in to the [booking platform](#), select In-Schools Touring, and complete the booking request form. **All booking requests must be submitted by 5pm on Friday 2 October 2026.**

The form asks for practical information as well as date availability and should take around 10 to 15 minutes to complete. **If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk** and we will be happy to help.

Once you have submitted the booking request form, we will contact you by **Wednesday 14 October 2026** to let you know whether we are able to offer your school a place.

Please note that while In-Schools Touring is free of charge to schools, **we may charge a fee of up to £1,000 for cancellations with less than three weeks' notice** (excluding school holidays). For more information about our cancellation policy, please see our [cancellations page](#).

If you have any questions about Primary Arts In-Schools Touring, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk using 'Primary Arts: In-Schools Touring' in the subject line.

Akademi South Asian Dance: Plastic Drastic Fantastic

A South Asian dance show for children exploring our complex relationship with plastics.



Akādemi

Akademi

Akademi make vibrant, fascinating, and meaningful South Asian dance. We use the compelling power of storytelling, rhythm and gestures to create deeper connections with each other and our wider world.

Akademi has been the beating heart of South Asian dance in the UK since 1979.

Akademi South Asian Dance: Plastic Drastic Fantastic

Key Stages:

Key Stage 2, SEND

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Music, dance, science, geography, art & design, PSHE/citizenship.

About the show

Plastic... is it friend or foe? Remarkable or rubbish? Helpful or harmful?

Plastic Drastic Fantastic is a contemporary dance theatre show for pupils which explores our complex relationship with plastics, the fantastic possibilities they offer, as well as the drastic consequences to the environment.

Drawing from South Asian dance techniques, the performers investigate plastics and the dangers of their misuse through intricate movement, gestures and play. Plastic Drastic Fantastic is an accessible, non-verbal, fun and thought-provoking piece, created in consultation with children and with material scientists at UCL.



45 minutes



Show SEND adaptations:

Relaxed performances.

About the pupil workshops:

Fun, energetic and cross-curricular, these workshops invite Key Stage 2 pupils to explore plastics through movement, storytelling and visual art. Together, we examine the full story of plastics, from the everyday (LEGO) to the environmental (harm to marine life), drawing on what children already know and feel about recycling and our environment and oceans.

Movement activities are inspired by the South Asian dance form Bharatanatyam, and the visual art element reveals the surprising beauty of plastics at a molecular level. Bringing together science, art and dance, each session leaves schools with a resource pack to develop the themes further.



45–60 minutes



Workshop SEND adaptations:

Storytelling using simple gestures, partner work, use of known/familiar objects. Led by a dance artist with specialist experience working in SEND schools.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

This practical, teacher-focused CPD builds confidence in using dance as a cross-curricular learning tool. Rooted in the theme of plastics, the programme begins with a reflective session connecting the artistic work to the curriculum: science, geography, English and PSHE. Teachers can take part in an interactive workshop, learning simple movement activities that bring concepts like material properties and environmental impact to life – no prior dance experience required.

The session will provide ready-to-use lesson ideas, supported where possible by in-class co-teaching with an artist. Teachers leave with full resource pack including lesson plans and video prompts.



45 minutes to 1 hour



up to 20



Book now

To submit a booking request for **Plastic Drastic Fantastic**, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Discover Children's Story Centre: Story Suitcase

Bringing multi-sensory storytelling magic into your classroom to support your pupils' literacy and oracy.



Discover

Based in Newham, Discover is the UK's first Story Centre for children aged 0-11 and their families. Working with families, schools and community organisations, we support children's education, skill development and emotional wellbeing through stories and literature.

Discover Children's Story Centre: Story Suitcase

Key Stages:

Reception, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Literacy, oracy, PSHE.

About the show

Unfold an interactive storytelling performance in the classroom from a magical Story Suitcase, full of props and sensory items. Guided by one of Discover's expert Story Builders, pupils will be invited to explore a story inspired by much-loved fairytales. Using multi-sensory elements such as props, music and movement, the session is designed to spark imagination, encourage participation, and develop an understanding of story structures and building blocks like syntax and vocabulary.

 30–45 minutes



Show SEND adaptations:

Use of sensory resources, varied session lengths, removal of elements that could cause sensory discomfort such as music or noise making props.

About the pupil workshops:

Following the performance, we will deliver an hour-long story-building workshop. Our Story Builder will guide the class to 'build' their own story, providing inspiration for their creativity through props and other sensory prompts. We will support the class to work collaboratively, sharing ideas and listening to others to support speaking and listening development. With our interactive, inclusive approach to literacy, we will improve pupils' understanding of core literacy curriculum elements such as composition, vocabulary, and grammar while inspiring their passion for stories, reading and creative writing.

 1 hour



Workshop SEND adaptations:

Use of sensory items for tactile engagement. Inclusive approaches to literacy teaching that don't rely on reading comprehension and writing ability.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

Through interactive demonstrations and hands-on activities, teachers will explore how to use Discover's inclusive, dynamic approach to teaching literacy, using sensory props, story bags, and structured questioning to bring stories to life. We will guide teachers through a collaborative story-building exercise and support them to extend storytelling into cross-curricular learning, incorporating drama, movement, and discussion.

We will provide teachers with:

- A structured approach to creative storytelling that supports literacy development.
- A practical toolkit to engage pupils of all abilities, including those with SEND and EAL needs.
- Strategies to foster creativity, critical thinking, and communication skills in the classroom.

 1 hour



10 – 30

Book now

To submit a booking request for Story Suitcase, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Groundswell Arts: The Light Box: Sensory Exploration and Light Play

An interactive STEAM project that encourages children to explore light, reflection, colour, and shadow.




Groundswell **ARTS**
Growing creative communities

Groundswell Arts

Groundswell Arts facilitates creative arts experiences, giving time and space for children, families, artists, and practitioners to connect and see each other in new ways.

Groundswell Arts: The Light Box: Sensory Exploration and Light Play

Key Stages:

Reception, Key Stage 1, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Art & design, light and dark, literacy and storytelling, shapes and patterns.

About the show

The Light Box is a purpose-built sensory installation and open-ended interactive environment that gives pupils the time and space to explore light, colour, shapes and shadows through a multi-sensory series of activities and play. Using the EYFS and Key Stage 1 curriculum, this activity enhances learning through creative play and curiosity.

The Light Box: Sensory Exploration and Light Play installation focuses on zones of activities that use a series of stories as prompts for the environments and work areas created.

Please note that for this show, the installation will need to be set up for the entire day so will require a space that can be used without interruptions.

 30–40 minutes

Show SEND adaptations:

Duration of session can be shortened, number of participants in space reduced.

About the pupil workshops:

The class workshop will look at shadow puppetry and will combine both the science curriculum (light, shadows, colours, shapes and patterns) with literacy and storytelling through puppets from existing stories or through a child's own imagination.

The workshop will look at different puppet designs. Pupils can explore how opaque and translucent objects affect the light being seen, as well as how distance and light sources can change the shapes and patterns being projected.

 1 hour

Workshop SEND adaptations:

Greater focus on play and experimentation, use of a variety of sensory shadow puppets.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

The twilight session will complement the shadow puppetry work being done in the classroom and will look at different ways to create shadow puppets using a variety of materials. Puppets will include 2D and split pin shadow puppets, acetate and laminate puppets, and the use of wax paper, crayons and oil to create different effects that can be used in the classroom to create characters and develop stories.

 1 hour

 1 – 20



Book now

To submit a booking request for The Light Box: Sensory Exploration and Light Play, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

IRIE! Dance Theatre: Dancing from the Archives

Empowering young people through African and Caribbean dance, developing creativity, confidence and cultural appreciation.



IRIE!
dance
theatre

IRIE!

IRIE! dance theatre is Britain's leading dance theatre company specialising in African and Caribbean fusion. Founded by Beverley Glean in 1985, IRIE! promotes the visibility of dance of the African Diaspora through innovative performances that celebrate African and Caribbean heritage, exploring the richness of the Black British cultural experience.

IRIE! Dance Theatre: Dancing from the Archives

Key Stages:

Reception, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Dance, PE, English, history, PSHE, art and design, music.

About the show

FOUNDATION – Dancing from the Archives brings together a collection of West African traditional dances and Caribbean folk dances that represent social and ritual functions. These dances are the foundation of the movement language/style of IRIE! Dance Theatre. FOUNDATION will communicate the nuances and storytelling traditions that are continually echoed in African and Caribbean culture. The movement of this new generation of performers combined with live drumming, percussion and songs will demonstrate the resilience, beauty and energy in dance of the African Diaspora.



1 hour



Show SEND adaptations:

Smaller session, smaller group sizes, quieter and less stimulating environments, sensory exploration activities, additional breaks.

About the pupil workshops:

Pupils will be introduced to the rich traditions of West African and Caribbean folk dance, exploring stories, rhythms and cultural heritage through movement.

The workshop will explore how movement connects to rhythm, storytelling and identity, developing physical skills, coordination and self-expression. Using a selected repertoire from FOUNDATION the workshop will teach African and Caribbean dance vocabulary and guide pupils through improvisation. The workshop will end with a shared performance and reflection as a group.



1 hour



Workshop SEND adaptations:

Shorter sessions, smaller group work, sensory-based exploration, additional breaks and quieter learning environments. Creative responses and sensory communication.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

Our CPD session introduces participants to the FOUNDATION approach to African and Caribbean dance. The session begins with a brief introduction, providing cultural context, aims, and key principles. The warm-up aims to develop an understanding of rhythms, coordination, and embodied awareness.

Participants then learn movement language or selected repertoire from FOUNDATION, exploring authentic African and Caribbean dance vocabulary. Through creative exploration, they respond to guided improvisation tasks, developing confidence and personal expression. The session concludes with practice and sharing, where participants refine movement, perform collaboratively, and reflect on learning, application, and inclusive teaching strategies.



1 hour



5 – 12



Book now

To submit a booking request for Dancing from the Archives, please use the [*Primary Arts booking platform*](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

London Bubble Theatre: Kam's World: Gaming Safety

Exploring online gaming, digital trust and online safety.



London Bubble

We use drama to advocate for underrepresented voices, creating opportunities for people to share their experiences. With care at the centre of our work, our practice supports the development of social and emotional skills for people aged 6-100, helping them build skills for life.



London Bubble Theatre: Kam's World: Gaming Safety

Key Stages:

Key Stage 2, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

PSHE, computing, mental health & wellbeing, growth mindset, online safety. English, oracy, British values, confidence building, arts & culture.

About the show

For their 10th birthday, Kam receives a tablet and excitedly downloads the latest game all their friends are playing – Stoxworld. At first, it's fun, but they soon get caught spending lots of time online, falling behind on schoolwork and hobbies. When another player offers a trade and pop-up sites keep offering rewards, they get scammed, discovering unexpected charges on their dad's bank card.

This interactive forum theatre piece invites pupils into Kam's World to help them *Recognise, React and Resolve* the challenges they face, exploring thoughts, feelings, choices and top tips for staying safe online.



1 hour



Show SEND adaptations:

Performances are devised with inclusivity and accessibility in mind. We employ facilitators who are skilled in working with SEND pupils and adapting activities to meet their individual needs. We encourage schools to discuss with us any specific accessibility requirements and how we can best support their pupils.

About the pupil workshops:

Led by highly skilled actor-facilitators, workshops will deepen learning through drama activities, role play and a 'green flag, red flag' game exploring risky scenarios. Pupils will engage their creative skills working in groups to devise and perform alternative outcomes.

They will apply what they have learned from Kam's World and explore the social and emotional impact of being scammed with the support of our facilitators. They will learn how to make safe choices online and how to support their peers in digital spaces.

Through theatre, pupils will develop their confidence and performance skills.



45-60 minutes



Workshop SEND adaptations:

Creative responses instead of written tasks or additional materials.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

Staff will gain practical tools for facilitating conversations around safe gaming and digital wellbeing, exploring challenging scenarios, encouraging pupil voice and developing creative problem-solving skills using forum theatre techniques.

There will be opportunities to explore the play's themes and reflect on how pupils might respond.

Staff will explore:

- Co-creating theatre with children
- Image theatre
- Role play interventions
- Facilitated questioning to deepen discussion and understanding.

They will also learn how approaches can be adapted to suit specific needs within their school and the wider curriculum.



1 hour



6 – 12



Book now

To submit a booking request for Kam's World, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Mahogany Carnival Design: The Magic of Carnival – We Celebrate Together

The story of Carnival told
through an interactive
experience of puppets,
costumes and creative making.



Mahogany Carnival Design

Mahogany is recognised throughout the world for breathtaking work in the art of Carnival. We create opportunities for young people to learn through the culture of Carnival, developing their imagination and creative making skills. We focus on the theatre of Carnival, the joyful spirit of Carnival that unites us all.



Mahogany Carnival Design: The Magic of Carnival – We Celebrate Together

Key Stages:

Reception, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Literacy, PSHE, art and design, British values, oracy, humanities.

About the show

The Magic of Carnival tells the story of Carnivals around the world and is a celebration of creativity and community spirit. The immersive experience explains the origins of different Carnival traditions, from Notting Hill Carnival to Chinese New Year. Pupils are invited to wear real costumes used in Carnival, animate Chinese dragon puppets and learn that each costume and puppet has meaning. As February and March are the traditional Carnival season for cultures across the world, the Magic of Carnival will connect to real-world experiences. It will not only deepen pupils' cultural learning but will bring the authentic joy of Carnival into schools.

 45 minutes



Show SEND adaptations:

Shorter version of performance.

About the pupil workshops:

In our workshops, pupils will make their own headdresses, taking inspiration from the costumes and puppets they have seen in the Carnival performance. Pupils can choose from a range of templates, and construct the headdress from card, paper and other materials. Pupils can choose the theme of their headdress, or the whole class can work towards a theme that relates to the topics they are studying, making each session adaptable and appropriate for the year group. The pupil workshops are designed bespoke for each school following discussion with teaching staff to ensure it is appropriate for each pupil in terms of duration, complexity and the materials used.

 45 minutes



Workshop SEND adaptations:

The workshop will be designed with the school and tailored to the needs of the participants. Participants and their support staff will work together.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

The CPD session will give a brief history of the journey of Carnival from Africa and the Caribbean to the UK. Each CPD is created bespoke with the school to relate to the needs of the staff attending. The CPD aims to build teacher confidence to use carnival arts as a tool to extend learning engagement across a wide range of topics, age groups and abilities.

We will choose the themes for the children's workshops that relate to specific year groups and leave the school with a set of templates they can use in the future. We will have costumes and props for the staff to learn from and enable participants to make a headdress of their own design from Carnival materials.

 60 minutes



2 – 25



Book now

To submit a booking request for the Magic of Carnival, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Pegasus Opera Company: Opera Explorers of the World

Discover the magic of opera through singing, storytelling and music around the world.



Pegasus Opera

Pegasus Opera, where diversity takes centre stage! We are redefining opera for a modern world with creative, innovative and inclusive experiences that speak to everyone. Through workshops, choirs, mentoring and performances, we nurture the next generation of diverse artists and help young people and communities discover the magic of opera.

Pegasus Opera Company: Opera Explorers of the World

Key Stages:

Reception, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Music, drama, literacy, history, PSHE, British values, oracy, speaking and listening, diversity and inclusion, teamwork and collaboration.

About the show

What's it like to be an opera singer?

Step behind the curtain and find out!

Join two professional opera singers and a host for an exciting journey from the audition room to opening night. Pupils will discover music and stories from around the world, learn an opera chorus and explore how singers use their voices to tell powerful stories. With plenty of opportunities to sing, ask questions and join in, Opera Explorers of the World is an exciting introduction to opera as a creative, inclusive and global art form.



1 hour



Show SEND adaptations:

Flexible performance length.

About the pupil workshops:

After the performance, pupils will take part in a creative workshop where they become opera-makers. Using the chorus learned during the show as a starting point, they work with a facilitator and the professional singers to create and perform their own mini opera scenes.

Through singing, movement, storytelling and imaginative play, pupils explore character, emotion and expression while experimenting with pitch, rhythm and dramatic ideas. Inspired by music and stories from around the world, they collaborate as composers and performers, finding their own voices and sharing their ideas creatively. The workshop builds confidence, creativity, teamwork and a sense of ownership.



45-60 minutes



Workshop SEND adaptations:

Workshops can be adapted through shorter activities, fewer tasks. Pupils can engage through singing, movement, body percussion or other non-verbal contributions.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

This practical twilight CPD session equips music and non-music specialist teachers with creative tools to continue pupils' opera journey beyond the visit. Teachers will explore singing games, warm-ups, call-and-response activities and simple composition techniques, while discovering diverse composers and musical trailblazers from African, Caribbean and Asian heritage.

Each school will receive our Make Them Hear You teachers' pack, including eight ready-to-deliver lessons and resources. The session supports teachers to deliver inclusive, engaging music-making and creative storytelling across the curriculum with confidence.



1 hour



20 max



Book now

To submit a booking request for Opera Explorers of the World, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

The Poetry Society: Poetry Presto! The Magic of Words

Poetry Presto! takes as its theme the magic of words – the idea that language has the power to make things happen, conjure up images and feelings, and bring ideas to life.



THE POETRY SOCIETY

The Poetry Society

The Poetry Society is the UK's leading poetry organisation. For over 100 years we've been a lively and passionate source of energy and ideas, opening up and promoting poetry to an ever-growing community of people. Our education work creates talent development opportunities for poets, teachers, pupils, and emerging writers.

The Poetry Society: Poetry Presto! The Magic of Words

Key Stages:

Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

English, literacy, oracy, resilience, wellbeing.

About the show

In Poetry Presto!, poets demonstrate the magic of poetry through inspiring and interactive spoken-word performances, encouraging children to participate through call-and-response and actions.

The poets introduce the magic box – a box full of poetry magic tricks, including alliteration, simile, and metaphor – and ask pupils to listen actively to the performances, identifying where they spot any tricks in action. The poets also reveal their secret performance tricks, e.g. how to conquer stage fright or how to memorise a poem.

 45 minutes

Show SEND adaptations:

Flexible performance length, quieter versions. Participatory element can allow for non-verbal responses.

About the pupil workshops:

For the workshops, a poet will visit each class, equipped with a magic box. At first, the box is a source of creative inspiration: it is filled with questions to spark your class's curiosity, short inspirational poems – including poems by young writers – and prompts that encourage them to take notice of the world around them using different senses.

Your pupils will learn how to respond to the prompts using imagery and descriptive language, each contributing their own lines to a class poem. At the end of the workshop, your class will perform their group poem together, using the performance tricks they learned in the assembly.

 45 minutes

Workshop SEND adaptations:

Flexible length of workshop, activities are adaptable to different levels of reading and writing ability.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

The CPD session is led by experienced poet facilitators. The session will demonstrate how teachers can use creative writing as a tool for encouraging collaboration and wellbeing, and boost teachers' confidence in bringing poetry into the classroom. The CPD will outline how the project relates to the curriculum and to wellbeing and will introduce teachers to the methods and resources the poets will use.

 1 hour

 2 – 20



Book now

To submit a booking request for Poetry Presto! The Magic of Words, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

Serious Trust: Steel, Sound and Story

An interactive music programme combining jazz, Caribbean musical traditions and storytelling.

SERIOUS
trust

Serious Trust

Serious produce outstanding cultural events, including festivals, tours and concerts, including the EFG London Jazz Festival that takes place each November. The Serious Trust is our charitable arm, raising funds to support talent development, creative engagement and new commission projects.



Serious Trust: Steel, Sound and Story

Key Stages:

Reception, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Music, English, history, geography, PSHE, speaking and listening, creative learning.

About the show

Each school visit begins with a live performance by a small ensemble of four players, including project leader Marlon Hibbert, introducing pupils to steel pan, accompanied by other instrumentation, including percussion, brass and woodwind instruments.

Pupils are introduced to songs they will later learn, alongside recognisable pop and reggae repertoire to encourage participation. The performance is designed to be fun, accessible and enjoyable to students and teachers across all musical tastes and levels of experience.

 45–60 minutes



Show SEND adaptations:

Shorter, quieter performances and adapting instrumentation.

About the pupil workshops:

Workshops are practical, inclusive, and structured as follows:

- Introduction to Caribbean music, stories, and cultural context
- Demonstration of the steel pan and how sound is produced
- Warm-up rhythm and listening exercises
- Basic playing techniques (holding sticks, striking, simple rolling)
- Learning Caribbean nursery rhymes and folk songs
- Group music-making, building a shared performance piece
- Reflection on learning through discussion.

 45–60 minutes



Workshop SEND adaptations:

Use clear structure and repetition to support understanding, break activities into manageable steps, provide non-verbal participation options (e.g. percussion, movement), adapt instruments and roles to ensure all pupils can take part meaningfully. Shorter duration.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

In our CPD session, teachers will be introduced to the history and cultural context of Caribbean music and steel pan, learning basic instrumental techniques and rhythm activities. We will also share simple, adaptable classroom exercises linked to the workshop content.

The session includes guided demonstrations and opportunities for teachers to try activities themselves, ensuring they feel confident replicating them in the classroom. Through this session, teachers will gain practical tools for teaching rhythm, listening, and musical creativity, strategies to support speaking, listening, and collaborative learning, and approaches to embedding music across the curriculum (e.g. linking to history, geography, and storytelling).

 45–60 minutes



1 – 25



Book now

To submit a booking request for Steel, Sound and Story, please use the [Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete the booking form, please email schools@anewdirection.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

SLiDE: Jack & Friends

A joyful dance and music performance and workshops exploring friendship, self-expression, and creativity through movement.



SLiDE

SLiDE

SLiDE is an inclusive dance company that brings people of all ages and abilities together through inclusive, creative dance. We offer workshops, performances, and community projects, fostering connection, confidence, and wellbeing. SLiDE celebrates diversity, enabling everyone to express themselves and experience the joy of dance.

SLiDE: Jack & Friends

Key Stages:

Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2, SEND.

Relevant areas of the National Curriculum:

Dance, English, mathematics, PE, PSHE & citizenship, music, drama, creativity, wellbeing, British values, raising attainment in speaking & listening.

About the show

Jack & Friends is an interactive dance performance celebrating friendship, belonging, and the joy of movement. Inspired by Jack's love of musicals, pantomimes and Strictly Come Dancing, the show blends storytelling, original music, and vibrant choreography. A relaxed, inclusive atmosphere invites all pupils to engage and move, culminating in a fun disco finale (optional depending on the school). Performed by a diverse cast, including a dancer with a learning disability, it champions self-expression and inclusivity.

 40 minutes for the performance, 20 minutes for the disco.

Show SEND adaptations:

Options include a shorter 30-45 minute performance with relaxed engagement and enhanced sensory elements, or a hybrid format that combines performance with extended participation, creating a flexible experience tailored to each group.

About the pupil workshops:

Step into Jack's world through a series of playful and inclusive dance activities inspired by the performance. Accompanied by live music, pupils explore movement, imagination and creativity through games, sensory tasks, simple choreography and collaborative dance-making.

The workshops celebrate individuality and encourage pupils to express themselves, share ideas, connect with others and perform improvised movement. Activities are adapted to suit different ages and abilities, creating a supportive environment where everyone can participate in their own way while developing confidence, communication, creativity and a sense of belonging.

 1 hour

Workshop SEND adaptations:

Sessions can be shorter with regular breaks, use sensory props and provide quieter or calmer moments. Activities can be floor based or standing, with flexible pacing.

Teacher Twilight CPD:

This practical CPD explores how dance and movement can foster creativity, inclusion and engagement across the curriculum. Teachers experience activities first-hand and learn adaptable, co-created warm-ups, creative tasks, simple choreography and basic Laban principles.

Drawing on SLiDE's expertise in inclusive practice, the session explores ways to engage diverse learners, including SEND and neurodiverse pupils, through creative choice-making, sensory approaches and accessible facilitation. Teachers leave with practical ideas and increased confidence to use movement as a tool for learning, creativity and engagement.

 1 to 1.5 hours (depending on requirements)

 6 - 14



Book now

To submit a booking request
for Jack & Friends,
please use the
[Primary Arts booking platform](#)

If you would like support to complete
the booking form, please email
schools@anewdirection.org.uk and
we will be happy to help.

About the Programme

Primary Arts aims to increase access to high quality, inspiring arts, cultural and creative opportunities for children and staff in London's state primary schools and in special schools working with pupils of any age using primary curriculum content.

Delivered in partnership with a range of cultural organisations, this menu of **free opportunities for schools** aims to unlock the creative potential, cultural capital and skills of school staff and children, offering opportunities to support curriculum development, enrichment, wellbeing, confidence, personal interest and development. If your school is on its [Artsmark](#) journey, the programme may also help support your Artsmark aims.

In this brochure, you can find information about the following strands of the programme:

IN-SCHOOLS TOURING: a choice of ten arts performances and in-class workshops for your pupils, plus teacher CPD, a curated box of reading books and a selection of creative materials and resources.

GO & SEE: tickets for your pupils to experience theatre, film, music, museums, heritage and the visual arts.

MASTERCLASSES: CPD days for teachers exploring a range of creative approaches to literacy, oracy and reader development.

COME & TRY: a series of creative practical twilights for all school staff.

Bookings

Each section of the brochure includes information about how to book or express your interest. All bookings are managed through [our online booking platform](#).

To attend a Masterclass or Come & Try event, you must register yourself on the booking platform under your school profile.

Places cannot be booked on the behalf of others. For the In-Schools Touring programme and Go & See, you will need to specify a lead teacher to liaise with us.

The entirety of the programme is offered free of charge, though charges may be made for late cancellations or no-shows. For more information, see our [cancellations page](#).

Who can take part?

Primary Arts is open to **all state primary schools and some special schools in London**. It is designed to include children in all primary year groups from Reception to Year 6 in mainstream schools, and **pupils of any age in special schools as long as they are learning using primary curriculum content**.

Your school **must be in a London borough** to be eligible for the programme.

Schools and individuals can take part in more than one strand of the programme (but only one touring booking can be made per school per year).

Go & See is available to all eligible schools, but ticket numbers are limited.

Masterclasses are open to **qualified teachers** currently working at any level in eligible schools.

Come & Try is open to **any member of staff** currently working in eligible schools, including teachers, Teaching Assistants, support staff, admin and estates staff.

An access budget is available to support engagement, for example for transport, BSL interpretation or other costs.

For In-Schools Touring and Go & See, if we receive more booking requests than we can accept, schools will be selected based on a range of criteria including level of need, geography, previous engagement in Primary Arts and the capacity of the programme itself. For Masterclasses and Come & Try, places are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, and we will open waiting lists for fully-booked sessions.

If you have any questions about the programme, please see our [FAQs](#). If these don't answer your questions, email us at schools@anewdirection.org.uk.

About A New Direction

A New Direction is an award-winning charity working to enhance the capacity and agency of children and young people in London to own their creativity, shape culture, and achieve their creative potential.

Primary Arts is funded by The City of London Corporation City Educational Trust Fund (29084), a City of London Corporation charity. We are extremely grateful to them for their continued support.

Get involved in the conversation online

#PrimaryArts

🎵 @anewdirectionldn

📷 @anewdirection_ldn

📘 @anewdirectionlondon

🌐 a-new-direction-london

www.anewdirection.org.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**