

INSPIRING CONFIDENCE THROUGH CREATIVITY

dot-art Schools annual inter-school art competition celebrates and showcases visual arts from schools across Liverpool City Region. Join dot-art Schools to nurture talent, raise ambition and develop pupils' confidence.



**“THE DOT-ART PROGRAMME
CONTINUES TO BE A HIGHLIGHT OF
OUR ARTS CALENDAR, PROVIDING
STUDENTS WITH A REAL-WORLD
PLATFORM TO SHARE AND
CELEBRATE THEIR CREATIVITY.”**

**MR SHAUN SMYTH, HEAD OF
CREATIVE & EXPRESSIVE ARTS,
THE ACADEMY OF ST NICHOLAS**





ABOUT

dot-art Schools is an interactive, online, inter-school art competition, taking place annually and culminating in a public exhibition of the winning artworks and prize giving celebration for teachers, students and their families.

The competition is open to all Primary (Year 5) and Secondary (Year 9) and SEND schools in the six boroughs of Liverpool City Region and beyond. It is designed to nurture talent, raise aspiration and take art out of the classroom into the real world.

Set up in 2012 in response to demand from local schools and the sidelining of the arts in the curriculum, to date over 16,000 children and young people have taken part.

“SEEING MY ARTWORK DISPLAYED ALONGSIDE SO MANY TALENTED YOUNG ARTISTS WAS AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE, AND IT HAS GIVEN ME MORE CONFIDENCE TO KEEP CREATING AND DEVELOPING MY SKILLS.”

SAVANNAH ROSE RAWLINGS - BAIG, THE ACADEMY OF ST NICHOLAS, SECONDARY OVERALL WINNER 2026

TEN REASONS TO TAKE PART

1. Delivers Arts and Culture enrichment activity as part of the school's enrichment entitlement offer, helping close the participation gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.
2. Improve students' confidence in their own ability and give a real sense of pride.
3. Contributes to a broad and balanced curriculum which build pupils' cultural capital.
4. Increase pupil's self-esteem, particularly important with the growing mental health crisis facing young people.
5. Help close the disadvantage or attainment gap.
6. Raise your school's profile regionally and demonstrate the school's commitment to arts and creativity.
7. Fantastic opportunity to showcase students' artwork outside school, demonstrating its quality to families and the wider community.
8. Great way to engage student's families through the online public vote, exhibition and prize giving ceremony.
9. Compare standards of artwork with other schools across the region, online and in a gallery setting.
10. Support your Artsmark journey and meet Gatsby benchmarks, OFSTED and National Curriculum attainment targets.



WHEN?

Sept to Dec	Schools sign up to participate in dot-art Schools.
February	Schools submit photographs of students' artworks by half term. Competition entries are added to the school's portfolio page on the dot-art Schools website.
March	Judging panel of respected arts professionals shortlist the top 3 entries from each school
April	The public vote online for their favourite shortlisted entry. The entry with most votes from each school wins a place in the exhibition.
May	Schools frame their winning entry ready for dot-art to transport it to and from the exhibition.
June	Guest judge selects the overall winners and runners up at the exhibition and announces them at the prize giving ceremony.

“THE DOT-ART SCHOOLS COMPETITION IS A WONDERFUL SHOWCASE FOR SUCH A WIDE RANGE OF CHILDREN’S ARTWORK. IT PROVIDES A REMARKABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG ARTISTS THAT BRINGS THEIR CREATIVITY INTO THE HEART OF THE WALKER ART GALLERY.”

**MR DANNY METZ, ART & DESIGN
LEAD, BLACKMOOR PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL,
OVERALL WINNING PRIMARY SCHOOL 2026**



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

For an entry fee of £195 +VAT for primary or £295+VAT for secondary, your school receives:

- A dedicated portfolio page on the dot-art Schools website, featuring students artwork entries, brief info and a link to your schools website
- Promotion via printed publicity & social media
- Your winning entry collected from and returned to school
- Your school's winner exhibited in a high quality public Exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery.
- Invitations for shortlisted students, their families and staff to attend prize-giving ceremony at St George's Hall.
- A certificate for each shortlisted student and the school

dot-art Services is the not-for-profit organisation that manages dot-art Schools. Your entry fee, alongside support from generous funders enables us to sustain the programme.

Budgets tight?

We may be able to help through our dot-art Schools Champion scheme, get in touch for details.

Sign up here before Christmas:

schools.dot-art.com/registration



@dotartSchools



@dotartschoolsnw



dot-art-schools



schools.dot-art.com

email schools@dot-art.com or call 0345 017 6660