

Young Arts Leaders



Art Fund

This guide has been created in collaboration between YALs from Palm Bay Primary School and Turner Contemporary to find out more about starting a YAL group in your school or setting.

Turner Contemporary
The Young Arts Leaders Guide

Find a space in the school or setting you are in that is free on a regular basis most weeks so the group knows where to meet. It can be big or small, inside or outside. This could be one of the first tasks you set out with the group to discuss and explore different areas of the school. Some schools set up their sessions during their regular CPD days.

"I chose YALs from across KS2 so that they could grow into the role as they moved higher up the school."

Mrs Tong

When recruiting the group, make it clear that you don't have to be an artist to belong. The goal is to create a group of engaged pupils who are curious to learn about the world around them. Promote the role like it is a job by sending out a short application form for pupils to fill out. We suggest Year 4 is the youngest age to start with and they carry on until end of Year 5. The group can be any size, but a cohort of about 10 is a good size to develop projects with. This also allows merging of year groups once they progress onto Year 5.

How to set up your own YAL Group

The YAL Guide

Turner Contemporary have collaborated with the **Young Arts Leaders (YALs)** of Palm Bay Primary School to create this resource to help guide and inspire you in setting up your own YAL group. The idea behind YALs is to encourage leadership, creative thinking and curiosity.

What are YALs like? Here's what the YALs had to say:

Curious Resilient Open Minded
Age is not a limit Creative
Fun Tenacious Brave Patience
Aspirational Enthusiastic Community
Never give up Fierce
Inclusivity Mindful Empowerment
No rules Tenacious Endeavour
Leaders Messy Thirst for learning

What type of things do YALs do?

- They meet new artists, learn different skills and explore new ways of thinking. Interacting with artists help highlight the importance of creativity in everyday life.
- Engage with their local organisations to find out about new and interesting careers. This activates civic pride and inspires them to participate in local activities and build communities.
- Take part in local competitions.
- Support their schools Artsmark.
- Lead on projects and host events e.g., Palm Bay Primary School organise a annual art auction to help raise the funds for all creative projects happening at the school.



What are the benefits of YALs ?

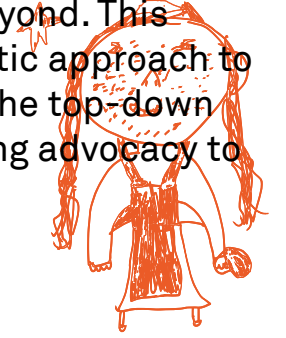
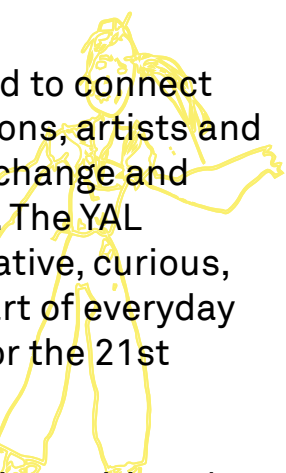
- Empower the children
- Enhance their language skills
- Develop their cognitive skills
- Promote critical thinking
- Child leadership
- Take ownership
- Build their confidence
- Work in a team
- Engage with their local community

By setting up a group of YALs, the pupils will boost their thinking skills, self-esteem and aspirations of living in a world full of creative possibilities.

At Turner Contemporary the focal point of our learning ethos is inspiring and protecting the future; supporting children and young people to lead, create and play.

YAL groups are encouraged to connect with their local organisations, artists and resources to help inspire change and ignite a thirst for learning. The YAL programme promotes creative, curious, and critical thinking as part of everyday life, which is a vital skill for the 21st Century.

Children take on leadership positions by helping to deliver workshops and organise events and initiatives to their school community and beyond. This model encourages a holistic approach to learning; moving beyond the top-down education model and giving advocacy to the future generation.



Interviews

The YALs interviewed older YALs, artists and teachers to give insight and guide you with setting up your own YAL group.

Older YALs

What do YALS do?

Alice: We are ambassadors, helping create and show work to the other children in the school.

Alice

Julia

What does YAL mean to you?

Julia: Creatively working as a team and having fun.

How did you set up YALs ?

Mrs Tong: They had to be interested in looking at and talking about art, as well as actually enjoying or being skilled at making their own art. The children applied by writing a letter ('writing for purpose!') telling me about the qualities that they thought they could bring to the role. The most enjoyed part of the YALs role is often sharing a technique or project with other children and teachers – they love that responsibility!

What advice would you give to other teachers?

Mrs Tong: Try to ensure that there is a dedicated time slot for creative projects (outside of curriculum). We use Friday afternoons, but when the projects are overlapping, we also meet at lunchtimes, or after school if necessary. The Senior leadership team really need to be kept informed and this will in turn gain their support if a project is well-planned. I also found that if you can gain a CPD slot – bring a couple of your YALs to the session and let them lead a short practical warm up or example of what you ask the (non-specialist) teachers to do. The teacher participation will be hugely improved. Select children that you can trust, and that you can 'train' to be representatives for the arts in your school and let them go into other classes' lessons to share skills. Keep it simple but they will start to really fit into the role.

The Teacher

Mrs Tong

What does YAL mean to you?

Mel: Being unapologetically creative and pursue any idea.

Have you found working with YALs helpful with your practice?

Mel: Definitely! Before coming here, I was set in my work. Now my practice has opened up in new directions.

The Artists

Mat Pringle

What stuck out about the opportunity to work with children at a school?

Mat: I jumped at the opportunity, being an individual artist it can be quite isolating. Coming into the school I get to be messy and chaotic and that equals fun. I get to learn a lot from the children.

Would you encourage other artists to do this?

Mat: Definitely, it's super fun! It brings me a lot of joy and excitement. The YALs are fearless and full of ideas and energy.

Mel Fisher