



# National Citizen Service (NCS) and Arts Award

## Guidance for Arts Award advisers

### Supporting young people to take part in Arts Award during the NCS programme

National Citizen Service (NCS) is open to all 16 to 17-year-olds in England. Nearly half a million young people have already taken part and previous evaluations show that NCS is helping to build a more confident, capable, connected and compassionate generation. Young people taking part in NCS can work towards Arts Award through a wide range of activities.

NCS runs outside term-time during the summer and half term breaks and is delivered by a network of quality assured youth and community organisations. There are no cost implications for a school or college to support the programme and government backing ensures participants pay a maximum of £50 for a place. Bursaries are available for those unable to meet the cost and support is provided for students with additional needs. [Find out more at ncsyes.co.uk](http://ncsyes.co.uk)

There's a wide range of reasons why young people benefit from taking part in the National Citizen Service (NCS) including doing activities that challenge and inspire them, developing their leadership and communication skills, and their sense of responsibility and independence. Did you know that the programme also offers a number of opportunities for young people to take part in Arts Award and gain a qualification for their experience?

As part of the NCS programme, many young people are choosing social action activities that are creative and delivered through the arts.

From planning a charity fashion show to raise awareness of eating disorders among teenagers, to running a knitting workshop in a care home for the elderly, there are so many possibilities.

If your school or college is already an Arts Award centre, this resource will help you to understand which parts of Arts Award can be achieved through NCS it will help with your overall planning. If you don't already deliver Arts Award, you can find out how to train as an Arts Award Adviser at [artsaward.org.uk/training](http://artsaward.org.uk/training).

By encouraging young people to evidence their activities during the NCS programme, you will be able to easily assess their Arts Award work when they return and it means you don't need to plan and provide for activities for all parts of Arts Award.

We hope that this resource will support you to promote NCS within the creative, arts and media departments in your setting so that more students can take part and link their achievements back to their Arts Award. The second resource is designed to be given to students for them to use as a prompt sheet during their NCS experience.

This resource focuses on Bronze Arts Award, for information about how the other Arts Award levels can be achieved through social action, as well as an interactive tool to help young people select which art form to use to highlight their chosen social issue, take a look at [artsaward.org.uk/creativecampaigning](http://artsaward.org.uk/creativecampaigning).

## Mapping Bronze Arts Award to NCS

Part of Bronze Award	Aim	Evidence required	Relevant NCS activity
<b>Part A: explore the arts as a participant</b>	Develop interest, knowledge and skills in a creative arts activity through active participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Description of the arts activity</li> <li>▶ How they developed their participation and enjoyment</li> <li>▶ Summary of what they learnt and how skills have improved</li> </ul>	<b>Skills building phase:</b> Taking part in workshops led by arts practitioners or talent share sessions by fellow team members
<b>Part B: explore the arts as an audience member</b>	Experience at least one arts event/ experience as an audience member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Evidence of at least one arts event</li> <li>▶ Personal reflection on the event and the creative impact it had</li> <li>▶ Evidence of communicating personal reflection to one or more others</li> </ul>	<b>Social action delivery phase:</b> Experiencing arts events hosted by other NCS teams (fashion shows, drama performances, film premieres, art exhibitions etc)
<b>Part C: arts inspiration</b>	Use simple research methods to find out about an artist, craftsperson or arts practitioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Evidence of research</li> <li>▶ A summary of what they have found out, why they chose this person and what they learnt about their arts career and work</li> </ul>	<b>Skills building phase, social action planning phase:</b> Meeting artists in the local community. Finding out about their life and arts career, (this could be an artist who helped to deliver a workshop for Part A)
<b>Part D: arts skills share</b>	Pass on arts skills to others by leading a short workshop or presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Explanation of the activity and why they chose it</li> <li>▶ Evidence of the activity happening</li> <li>▶ Reflection on how it went</li> </ul>	<b>Social action planning and delivery phases:</b> Hosting a short workshop or mini-master class as part of the social action project, or back at school/ college after NCS graduation

### Bronze scenario

**Part A:** Young people take part in a drama workshop led by visiting practitioners during the NCS skills building phase. They then decide to create their own drama performance as part of the social action phases which highlights the impact of cyber bullying. They rehearse and perform to friends and family to raise funds for their chosen charity. They then reflect on what they learnt and how their skills have improved.

**Part B:** Young people watch a performance by the same visiting theatre practitioners or visit a local community arts event of their choice during the skills building phase. They review the event and share this with the rest of the team through a group discussion.

**Part C:** Young people choose to interview the visiting arts practitioner about their arts career. Alternatively their team leader may be an artist, or they might meet a local artist during the skills building or planning stage and choose to find out about their life and work. Part C could also be carried out independently outside of NCS hours.

**Part D:** After their drama performance, members of the team plan and deliver a short acting workshop for their friends and family to share some of the drama skills they have learnt. They reflect on how this went and get some feedback from the participants.

