

Wysing Arts Centre X St Peter's School
Residency Artist
Recruitment Pack, December 2025

Wysing Arts Centre is looking for an imaginative open-minded artist who is excited by the idea of working collaboratively with young people in a school setting over an academic year. We're seeking someone who is curious about students' ideas and committed to shaping creative sessions that evolve in dialogue with them. You will bring a reflective approach to your practice, be willing to adapt and experiment, and value the reciprocal learning that can emerge when artists and young people create together.



Rafał Zajko, 'We Were Here (Producers)', 2023, Natural stone powder, bio resin, pigment.
Photo credit: Rob Harris



WYSING

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St Peter's School Collaboration with Alexis Parinas, 2024.
Photo: Nurbanu Asena.

Residency Overview

Wysing Arts Centre X St Peter's School Residency Artist

Hours: x 44 sessions across x 22 Fridays in school term time September 2026 - June 2027

Salary: £7,850 Artist Fees plus £1,870 materials and travel budget.

Working location: St Peter's School, Saint Peters Rd, Huntingdon PE29 7DD

Contract: September 2026 - June 2027

Reporting to: Young People's Programme Coordinator

Wysing Arts Centre and St Peter's School are inviting applications from artists for a, paid residency built around an academic year embedded within the school environment. Now entering its fifth year, this established programme supports sustained creative engagement between an artist and young people. The selected artist will work directly with Year 7 and Year 8 students (ages 11–13), delivering 44 creative workshop sessions on Fridays during term time from September 2026 to June 2027. These workshops form part of the school's Learn Aspire Exceed (LAE) curriculum, which provides students with enriching experiences beyond the core curriculum.

Previous residencies have included:

- Rafał Zajko: Collaborated with Year 7 on a public commission for the school's exterior (supported by the Henry Moore Foundation).
- Alexis Parinas: Developed stop motion animation with Year 7, which fed into the New Block Commission at Wysing.
- Louise Ashcroft: Worked with Year 7 & 8 to reimagine aspects of their school in *What if School...?*, pitching ideas to decision makers.
- Ree Bradley (current): Exploring performance art with students.

Aims of the residency

The residency is rooted in collaboration and mutual learning. The residency artist will bring their own practice, ideas, and methods into the school setting, creating workshops that respond to the interests, needs, and voices of young people. This role invites the sharing of processes, skills, and techniques; the exploration of ideas and social issues; and opportunities for collaboration with students and staff.

- Design and lead workshop sessions that can be in active dialogue with young people.
- Boost student confidence and self-esteem.
- Young people's creativity is taken seriously by a professional artist, by having their voices heard and ideas acted on.
- Improve young people's mental health through creative expression.
- Students widen their horizons.
- Students understand more about creative processes and careers in the creative industries.
- Increased school and community cohesion.
- Enable the artist to develop their own facilitation skills and experience.
- To work with Wysing and St Peter's school to document the sessions.

Practical Considerations

This residency offers an exceptional opportunity for an artist to work closely within a school community, reaching young people who may have limited access to contemporary artistic practice. Because the work takes place in real classroom contexts, the school environment brings particular structures that the selected artist will need to navigate thoughtfully.

Lesson times: fixed to 1-hour sessions, creating an exciting challenge to meaningfully embed creative practice into the curriculum in ways that are clear, engaging, and achievable within the allotted time.

Age group: You will be working with school years 7 and 8 (ages 11–13). Your language and approach should be appropriate for this age range, potentially introducing them to art forms and themes they may not have encountered before.

Classroom facilities and IT resources: As a state school with limited IT infrastructure, the classroom setup is basic.

- Internet access must be pre-requested and enabled by the school's IT team; Wi-Fi is not instantly available.
- Some school software or equipment may not be compatible with artists' own devices or preferred programs. Artists should be prepared to use practical workarounds where needed—for example, HDMI adapters, alternative file formats, or low-tech solutions when software cannot be installed.

Access limitations: The classroom is on the top floor and only accessible via stairs; unfortunately, it is not accessible for wheelchair users.

Working on a school site: Schools can be busy, noisy places, with lessons running concurrently and people moving through the building. While your sessions take place during dedicated lesson times, a general level of background activity should be expected.

Travel considerations: St Peter's School is approximately 20 minutes from Huntingdon Railway Station, and free parking is available on site. We encourage applicants to reflect on how they will manage travel and logistics throughout the residency, before applying. These conditions reflect the practical realities of working within a state school educational environment.

Wider Wysing Offer

Throughout the residency, you'll be warmly welcomed and supported by the Wysing Arts Centre team, who are generally available during office hours (Monday–Friday, 9:30am–5:30pm, not including bank holidays) to help you make the most of your time both at the school and at Wysing.

Alongside your work at St Peter's School, you will have access to the wider Wysing site. This includes curatorial support, opportunities to develop your practice on site, and use of Wysing's studios, workspaces, and resources. These can support both your research and development for the school residency and your broader artistic practice during your time with us.

Accommodation & Site Access

At agreed points during the residency, free on-site accommodation in Wysing's farmhouse may be available.

Studios, Equipment & Creative Spaces

Residents have free use of Wysing's equipment, ceramics studio, and recording studio. After a short induction, you are welcome to use these spaces independently, with optional specialist support available at subsidised rates. You're also invited to join Wysing's community for a shared lunch each day at 12:30pm.

Free Wi-Fi is available across the site, though phone reception may vary.

Key Responsibilities

The Artist Lead will work closely with the Wysing Arts Centre Young People's Programme Coordinator and will be engaged under "a contract personally to do work" for one academic year (September 2026- June 2027)

- Deliver 44 one-hour workshops (22 for Year 7, 22 for Year 8) on Fridays during term time.
- Plan and adapt creative sessions rooted in your artistic practice, responding to students' interests and needs.
- Collaborate closely with St Peter's School and Wysing Arts Centre staff
- Create a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment that encourages student creativity and confidence.
- Document workshops collaboratively to capture the residency's progress and achievements.
- Manage materials and resources within the allocated budget.
- Follow safeguarding policies to ensure the wellbeing of all students.
- Attend induction and planning meetings with Wysing and St Peter's School.
- Commit to take part in key evaluation moments throughout the residency.

Person specification

This residency will shape and challenge your practice in meaningful ways. It is ideal for someone who enjoys working resourcefully and imaginatively, and who sees real value in testing and adapting their practice through collaboration with young people. As the year unfolds, the ability to remain flexible and responsive will be essential to making the most of the opportunities that arise.

- Have 5+ years' experience developing and delivering work within your artistic practice.
- Have excellent interpersonal and communication skills and experience of working with diverse groups and individuals with different life experiences, practices and learning styles.
- Have experience or a strong interest in working with young people.
- Be willing to undertake a DBS check (administered by Wysing).
- Be willing to commit to key programme dates.
- Have a demonstrable commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism.
- Have an understanding and commitment to intersectional approaches to access and environmental sustainability.
- Be willing to engage in scheduled check-ins and participate constructively in reflective meetings regularly.
- Engage in reflective practice, showing readiness to learn from sessions and adjust approaches accordingly.

Timeline

Programme dates subject to change. Specific dates for sessions to be agreed in writing by all parties by July 2026.

30 January 2026

Deadline for Applications

9 March 2026

(week commencing)

Interviews for Artist with St Peter's School Students

16 March 2026

Interviewees notified of outcome

April – May 2026

Artist induction at Wysing and SPS including completing DBS forms, dates to be agreed.

May – August 2026

Artist R&D supported by Wysing and SPS where appropriate during term time.

Early September 2026

Session plans finalised with the artist, and signed off by Wysing & SPS

September 2026

Sessions begin

June 2027

Sessions end

June 2027

Student and artist visit to Wysing

Recruitment Process

Please submit your application through [Submittable](#) by 12pm on Friday 30th of January 2026.

We understand you may use AI tools to support your application; however, please ensure that your genuine voice and personal experience are clearly reflected.

The Young People's Programme Coordinator (Parental Leave Cover) is available to have an informal conversation about the position to arrange this please email emily.steele-dias@wysing.art

The application will include:

1. Artist Statement

(Up to 300 words or a max 3-minute video)

A summary of your practice, your current interests, and what drives your work.

2. Residency Interest Statement

(Up to 300 words or a max 3-minute video)

Please tell us:

- Why you want to take part in this residency.
- Why it feels relevant to your practice at this point in your career.
- How you would approach working with students at St Peter's School.

We're interested in how you would support the development of others while continuing to evolve your own practice.

3. Images

- 10 images of your work, clearly titled.
- Optional short captions (up to 75 words each).

4. Video/Audio Links (Optional)

- Up to 3 links (excerpts preferred).

5. CV / Résumé

- Maximum 2 pages.

6. Your contact details

7. Your availability to attend an online interview the week commencing 9th March 2026.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

As a Disability Confident Leader, where possible and proportionate within the number of interview spaces available, we guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for the vacancy. Please indicate if you identify as disabled in your application so that we can aim to ensure that we shortlist you for interview should you meet the minimum criteria. Wysing is committed to staff wellbeing and are a member of the Employee Assistance Programme of WeCare providing mental health and wellbeing support as well as many other services and access to training where appropriate.

We are committed to providing equal opportunities for everyone regardless of their background. We acknowledge that people from certain backgrounds are under-represented in the arts sector, and we're committed to doing what we can to correct this. We are particularly keen to receive applications from those who identify as global majority; d/Deaf or disabled people; people who identify as being LGBTQ+; people who have a mental health condition; and people who identify as working class now or in the past.

About Wysing Arts Centre

Established in 1989, Wysing Arts Centre is a progressive organisation in a rural setting, ten miles from Cambridge city. It holds 20 subsidised studios, accommodation for up to 80 visiting artists annually, recording and ceramics studios, flexible space to experiment, present and learn, fields, woodland, and several outdoor outworks.

Wysing's mission is to support artists, and to be leading in the way we do it. Our rural site is a creative sanctuary: we provide artists and publics with time and space to expand their creative practice, away from the pressures, habits and conventions of daily life.

Wysing supports artistic experimentation, research, risk-taking and skills development. We do this through national and international artist residencies, commissions, innovative partnerships and civic connections, events, a youth-led learning programme and affordable studio provision.

We work locally, nationally and internationally to activate vital conversations with artists, young people, publics and change makers. We advocate for artists, and for the importance of art in keeping our shared humanity alive. We empower and advocate for those underrepresented in our sector; we work to create a welcoming space where everyone can thrive.

We take a proactive, intersectional approach to equity and inclusion, and often support artists who have not been well supported by mainstream gallery and funding systems. Several artists who have spent time at Wysing have gone on to be Turner-prize or Paul Hamlyn Award winners. Some artists go on to be commissioned by Wysing to make artworks, music and performance; many participate in Wysing's lively events.

In 2025-6, Wysing is continuing a capital project focused on making Wysing's rural site more accessible and welcoming, green energy and biodiversity.

We are funded principally by Arts Council England through its National Portfolio scheme. Further funds are raised through Trusts, Foundations and via individual giving. More can be discovered about Wysing's programme and history at [wysing.art](https://www.wysing.art).

About St Peter's School

St Peter's School is an 11–18 Academy serving one of the most disadvantaged communities in Cambridgeshire. Many students face significant challenges and lack access to arts opportunities beyond school. This residency aims to inspire and empower young people through creative engagement. Find out more at stpetershuntingdon.org.