



CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS



Inclusive Creative Workshop for Special Schools

Creativity has no limits!

Step into a joyful world of **colour, texture, movement** and **imagination** as students explore the inspiring sculptures of Fresh Air Sculpture through the playful theme of **Carnival of the Animals**.

This relaxed and inclusive workshop is designed to encourage curiosity, sensory exploration and creative confidence. Students will enjoy discovering sculptures in the gardens, responding through touch, movement, discussion, drawing and making. There is no right or wrong outcome – the focus is on enjoyment, participation, self-expression and experiencing art first-hand.

- The day encourages students to:**
- ♥ Explore materials and textures
 - ♥ Make creative choices independently
 - ♥ Work collaboratively
 - ♥ Build confidence through hands-on making
 - ♥ Experience art in a supportive outdoor environment
 - ♥ Celebrate individuality and imagination
- The workshop can be adapted to suit a wide range of abilities, access needs and communication styles.

STRUCTURE OF THE DAY

10.00 am

Arrival & Welcome

Schools arrive and are welcomed by Emily Bird and the Education Team.

Students will be taken to the Education Tent where they can leave bags, packed lunches and settle into the space at their own pace. Students will be introduced to the tutors and divided into small supportive groups.



10.15 am

Exploring the Sculpture Gardens

Students will explore the exhibition and gardens in small groups.



The focus is on:

- Looking closely
- Exploring safely
- Talking and sharing ideas
- Sensory experiences
- Enjoying the outdoor environment
- Responding freely to artworks

Students may:

- Draw simple observations
- Take photographs
- Touch selected sculptures
- Describe textures and colours
- Explore shape, size and movement
- Talk about how sculptures make them feel

Simple questions may include:

- ★ Which sculpture do you like best?
- ★ What colours can you see?
- ★ Does this sculpture remind you of anything?
- ★ How do you think it was made?
- ★ How does this artwork make you feel?
- ★ What textures can you spot?

Students will also take part in playful outdoor creative activities inspired by the sculptures and natural surroundings.

12.00

Midday – Lunch

Students return to the Education Tent for lunch and a break.



12.30 pm

MAKING WORKSHOP Carnival of the Animals



2.30 pm

End of Workshop

Students gather belongings and return to transport.



12.30 pm – MAKING WORKSHOP

Introducing the Activity

Artist-tutors will introduce the idea of Carnival of the Animals by talking about:

- ♥ Animals
- ♥ Celebration
- ♥ Colour
- ♥ Movement
- ♥ Music
- ♥ Texture
- ♥ Imagination

You can make anything you imagine!

Students will be encouraged to make their own choices and interpretations. Sculptures can be realistic, abstract, funny, unusual or completely imaginative.

The emphasis is on creativity, exploration and enjoyment rather than producing a perfect final piece.



Stage 1 – Building the Structure

Students will create a simple armature using:

- ♥ Cardboard bases
- ♥ Bright pipe cleaners
- ♥ Tape

The pre-made cardboard bases will already contain holes so students can easily push pipe cleaners through and experiment with:

- Position
- Shape
- Balance
- Number of legs or supports
- Movement and gesture

Students can work independently or with support from staff and tutors.



Stage 2 – Adding Clay & Texture

Students will then use soft air-drying clay to build onto their structures.

They can:

- Squash
- Roll
- Press
- Smooth
- Pinch
- Add patterns and textures

Additional materials such as:

- Colourful fabrics
- Pipe cleaners
- Feathers
- Decorative materials

may be added to create expressive and tactile sculptures.

The process encourages sensory exploration and experimentation.



Stage 3 – Sharing & Celebrating

Throughout the session students will be encouraged to:

- ♥ Look at each other's work
- ♥ Share ideas
- ♥ Talk about colours and textures
- ♥ Celebrate creative choices
- ♥ Build confidence through positive discussion

There is no expectation for sculptures to look a certain way.

Every sculpture will be unique and valued equally.



FINAL COLLABORATIVE DISPLAY

As a final celebration, students will place their sculptures together along the colourful carnival pathway to create a collaborative exhibition.

Students can:

- ★ Arrange sculptures together
- ★ Explore colour combinations
- ★ Walk around the display
- ★ Photograph the work
- ★ Celebrate everyone's contributions



Students may take sculptures home or leave them temporarily on display.

WORKSHOP APPROACH

This workshop is designed to be:

- ♥ Flexible
- ♥ Accessible
- ★ Sensory-friendly
- ♥ Supportive
- ♥ Playful
- ♥ Process-led rather than outcome-led

The focus is on:

- ♥ Enjoyment
- ♥ Participation
- ♥ Exploration
- ♥ Confidence-building
- ♥ Creative expression
- ♥ Experiencing art first-hand

Students are encouraged to communicate and respond in whatever way feels comfortable for them, including:



LEARNING & CREATIVE EXPERIENCES

Through the workshop students will:

- ★ Experience contemporary sculpture first-hand
- ★ Explore colour, texture, shape and materials
- ★ Develop confidence in making and experimenting
- ★ Engage with sensory and tactile processes
- ★ Work collaboratively with others
- ★ Express ideas creatively and individually
- ★ Enjoy being creative in an outdoor setting
- ★ Celebrate imagination and personal responses

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

Artists at Fresh Air Sculpture 2026

Students will discover how artists:

- ★ Use different materials creatively
- ★ Make sculptures inspired by ideas, stories and emotions
- ★ Create exciting textures and shapes
- ★ Use colour and movement in their work
- ★ Display artworks outdoors in interesting ways

The workshop encourages students to enjoy exploring art in their own way and understand that there are many different ways to make, experience and respond to sculpture.