

Top Tips for teaching 11 – 15 Year olds

All 11- 15 yr old classes will have a classroom assistant. This person has responsibility for the safeguarding of the group and will accompany the group to lunch. They will take their lunch break after this.

11- 15 yr old classes WILL NOT be able to use specialist equipment or studios, or electrically powered equipment or tools.

All 11- 15 yr old classes WILL NOT be able to leave the college grounds for trips or visits during their course.

All Under 18 year old learners are asked at booking if they have any additional needs that UALSC need to be aware of to support them during their course (eg: food allergies, neuro diversity, learning difference, Physical limitations) and this information is made available to tutors in advance of the class starting

Try not to assume knowledge, learners may have had a very limited arts education at school. This might be their first time being creative in an educational setting. This can be scary, there may be concerns about needing to get things “right”.

Learners this age often want to know the criteria to succeed and achieve. Make sure the aims of the course are clear, what will they gain by the end of the course? What will they be able to do that they couldn't before?

Eg; what is a “successful” bit of work on this course? Is it an accurate drawing or is it an expressive drawing?

Set the expectations and boundaries (or not!) for the class at the beginning. Having structured conversations about what is expected in the class can help reassure those who are nervous about what is in store, while also giving something to refer back to if there are issues with behavior later in the course.

Eg: we all agree to try our best, have a go at everything even if we are not sure about it, we agree to say positive or useful things about each other's work.



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Consider that there might be a very wide range in experience and maturity in the group, a very young 11-year-old can be just out of primary school, a mature 15-year-old can be close to living independently. You might want to put learners into groups rather than let them self-select to ensure a good mix of experiences, or to enable differentiation by putting different levels of experience together. Many learners this age are not “self-starting”. They will need to know what to do and require instruction much more than adults. Consider shorter activities, or activities that can be used for those who run out of steam earlier than others.

Equally some learners may speed through tasks and require an additional task to stretch and challenge them (rather than just getting them to do the next activity early)

Learners this age are unlikely to be able to concentrate on more than 15 mins of Teacher talk (presentation) so make sure to break this up with things for them to do and always consider what the learner is expected to be doing (eg, taking notes or filling in a worksheet) when you are presenting information.

Consider including a preview of the next day's activity so learners are excited to return the next day.

Make sure to include studio practice. Keeping a studio or workshop clean and safe is part of what is being taught. Tidy and cleaning time is part of the class time.

It's a good idea to build in a way to celebrate the achievement of the course; a pop-up exhibition, a shared padlet resource to show the work created, or a performance etc.

Here are some resources created specifically for this age group that you may want to use directly or take inspiration from.

<https://www.artpedagogy.com/> (look specifically at the KS3 program)

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/create-artist>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids>

<https://www.whitechapelgallery.org/learn/resources/>

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/creative-learning/resources/artsdrop>

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/page/families-teachers-resources>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ks3-art-and-design/zdmf8xs>



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You may want to create a Padlet page for your course to enable learners to link to the resources outside or after the class. This can also be a place to gather images of the work created during the course.

See this example by Tutor Lydia Brockless: <https://ualshortcourses.padlet.org/lydiabrockless2/art-and-design-for-11-to-15-year-olds-by-lydia-brockless-26--khqw099c9wht3y9c>

For further information about using padlet see :

<https://support.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2022/07/07/padlet-guide/>
<https://support.myblog.arts.ac.uk/2022/07/19/using-padlet/>

