

# ISA Awards 2024 Case Study: Excellence in Fine Arts and Design



## FARADAY PREP SCHOOL

**JUNE 2025**

### History of the School

Faraday Prep School is an independent preparatory school based in the heart of East London's historic docklands. Established with a commitment to creativity and inquiry-led learning, Faraday is uniquely positioned within the vibrant Trinity Buoy Wharf—a renowned artistic community and cultural hub. The school's physical setting, surrounded by over 500 artists, sculptors, musicians, and designers, has shaped its curriculum and ethos, embedding creativity at the centre of its educational vision. Named after the legendary scientist and inventor Michael Faraday, the school draws inspiration from both innovation and artistic expression to provide a dynamic and interdisciplinary education for children aged 4 to 11.



Alarie Drummonds  
Headteacher

Founded to provide an intimate and nurturing environment, Faraday Prep School has always prioritised the individual needs of its pupils. With small class sizes and a strong sense of community, the school fosters close relationships between staff, pupils, and families. This supportive atmosphere has created a culture in which children are encouraged to take intellectual and creative risks, and to express themselves with confidence and curiosity. The school's commitment to personal development sits alongside academic ambition, ensuring that children grow not only in knowledge, but in character.

In recent years, Faraday has continued to evolve while remaining true to its founding principles. The school has expanded its facilities and enhanced its curriculum with a clear emphasis on experiential and interdisciplinary learning.



Its location offers unparalleled opportunities to engage directly with the creative and cultural landscape of London, positioning pupils to see themselves as active participants in their community. Through dynamic projects, professional collaborations, and a curriculum that blends tradition with innovation, Faraday has emerged as a leading example of how a small school can have a big impact.

<https://www.faradayschool.co.uk>

## Aims

Faraday Prep School's approach to teaching and learning in Art and Design is underpinned by four key objectives:

- To Embed Creativity Across the Curriculum

Faraday believes that creative learning should not be confined to one subject but should inform all areas of a child's education. The school designs projects that combine art, science, literacy, and history, promoting deeper understanding and personal expression.

- To Foster Real-World Artistic Engagement

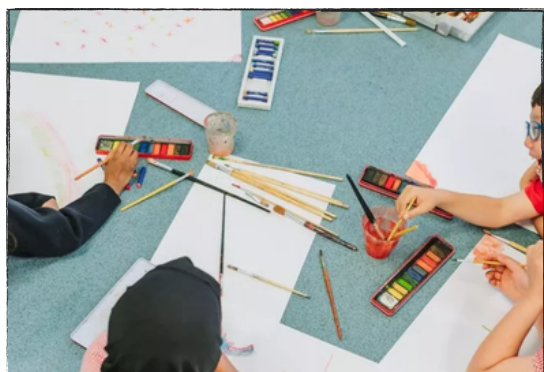
Through active partnerships with professional artists and cultural organisations, Faraday provides pupils with opportunities to collaborate on meaningful creative projects, both within school and in the wider London arts scene.

- To Celebrate Cultural Diversity Through the Arts

Creative learning at Faraday is a vehicle for global understanding. Pupils engage in projects that explore diverse cultural heritages, such as African wax print textile design, encouraging a broader worldview.

- To Showcase Pupil Voice and Achievement

The school values original thought and personal expression. Pupils' creative work is regularly exhibited at professional venues such as City Hall, the Trinity Art Gallery, and even featured in prestigious competitions like the Royal Academy Summer Show.



## OUTCOMES

Faraday Prep School's commitment to immersive, interdisciplinary and experiential art education has led to transformative outcomes for its pupils and community.

- **Authentic Artistic Experiences with Industry Professionals**

Pupils have collaborated with acclaimed creatives including stop-motion animator Tim Allen (Fantastic Mr Fox), Nike designer Kieron Booth, and poet Hussain Manawer. These partnerships have led to imaginative projects like poetry, animation, and digital art, significantly enriching the pupils' exposure to creative industries.

- **Curriculum Innovation through Cross-Disciplinary Projects**

In one example, Year 4 students studied Lewis Carroll's Jabberwocky, crafting their own nonsense poems in English and then designing booklets in Computing, which were professionally printed. This project showcased how creative disciplines can be combined to enhance literacy, design, and publishing skills.

- **Experiential Learning Linked to Local Culture and Geography**

Year 3's project on African wax prints saw pupils visit Dalston's Ridley Road Market to select fabrics before creating their own Ankara cushions. Through this, pupils explored textile design alongside African history and geography—learning through doing.

- **Art as a Medium for Understanding Local Heritage**

In a striking use of their surroundings, pupils travelled via speedboat with photographer Michael Collins to explore Beckton Gasworks, learning about London's industrial past. They created recycled material sculptures that were publicly exhibited, connecting environmental awareness with historical inquiry.

- **Landmark Projects with Community Impact**

The Homecoming project celebrated the return of the SS Robin—an historic Victorian steamship built at Trinity Buoy Wharf. Pupils worked alongside arts collectives and puppeteers to produce a shadow puppet theatre production on board the ship, incorporating history, music, science, and drama. This ambitious, multi-disciplinary collaboration demonstrated Faraday's ability to link heritage, creativity, and performance in meaningful ways.







## NEXT STEPS

Faraday Prep School is committed to continuing its development as a centre of creative excellence. The next phase of the school's journey includes:

- **Expanding Professional Artist Residencies**

Plans are in place to deepen partnerships with Trinity Buoy Wharf creatives, bringing more artists into the classroom and extending projects across multiple year groups.

- **Developing Pupil Exhibitions Beyond the School**

Following successes at City Hall and the Trinity Art Gallery, Faraday aims to increase participation in national art competitions and local public showcases, giving pupils a platform for their voice and talent.

- **Integrating Digital and Sustainable Art Practices**

Faraday is exploring new ways to incorporate digital media and environmentally conscious practices into the curriculum, ensuring pupils are equipped with 21st-century creative skills.

- **Building Global Connections Through the Arts**

Future projects aim to connect Faraday pupils with international schools through shared creative endeavours, reflecting the school's commitment to community, diversity, and curiosity on a global scale.

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