

Workshops can explore a range of textile techniques including hand embroidery, creative repair, using sewing machines, printing on to fabric and weaving. The theme of each workshop can link to curriculum topics, interests of students or a wider school project. For older students, I am able to offer talks and insights into creative careers.

Workshops can last from a few hours, to a whole day or several days. I am also able to undertake residencies within schools, embedding textiles into daily school life and working with pupils on a range of projects. As a freelance artist, I am able to work flexibly to fit in with the demands of school planning and curriculum. I also deliver CPD sessions for teachers and other staff members.



All materials can be provided.

I have experience of project management and, if required, can organise and lead your art project. This could include commissioning creatives from other artforms, budget management, evaluations and ensuring all work is completed on time and within budget.

I have experience of working with students from a variety of backgrounds and with a range of additional needs. I have an enhanced DBS and Public Liability Insurance.



Most workshops for schools are bespoke, taking into account themes, the curriculum and needs of students. The most popular techniques are outlined here for inspiration; however, they are fully adaptable.

Essential Sewing Skills

Essential sewing skills are important; they develop fine motor skills, creative thinking, dexterity, hand eye co-ordination and problem solving. These workshops are designed to teach the basic, essential sewing skills that boost self esteem in a fun and engaging way. Designed for younger children (up to 11 years) to get to grips with the skills that will provide a good understanding of embroidery and sewing through fun projects such as sock puppets and classroom bunting.



Weaving

Weaving is an excellent activity to explore colour, texture and learn more about how fabric is created. Weaving develops fine motor skills, hand eye co-ordination, dexterity, mathematical awareness and so much more. During this weaving workshop we will create a small wall hanging, coaster or similar project and understand how this could be enlarged for future projects.

The workshop can focus on a specific theme such as landscape or seasonal colours, textures or be a workshop weaving with yarns that you like the colour and texture of. The weaving workshop is suitable for all ages and experiences.



Introduction to Hand Embroidery

Hand embroidery is a very mindful activity that also develops hand eye co-ordination, creativity, fine motor skills and boosts mental well-being. This workshop is designed for older children and young people (aged 10 years plus) to learn the basic hand embroidery stitches.



Printing on Fabric

Printing on fabric is a fun and inspiring workshop that develops creative thinking, problem solving, dexterity, hand eye co-ordination and motor skills. During this workshop participants will print using different inks and paints on to fabrics creating a range of outcomes. Younger children (aged 3 – 11 years) will work with pre-existing print blocks exploring patterns and creating more pictorial outcomes of their choosing. Young people (aged 11 years and over) will learn how to create their own print block (which they keep) before exploring a range of printing techniques and paints.

This workshop is ideal for both collaborative and individual artwork and can be adapted to cover a wide range of themes.



Creative Repair

Creative Repair or visible mending is the art of repairing clothing and textiles with the intention of the repair being seen, celebrating the fabric and history of the textiles. Visible mending lengthens the life of fabrics, in turn caring for our environment and planet. Creative repair develops and awareness of the need to be more sustainable, creative thinking, hand eye co-ordination and dexterity.

This workshop is suitable for young people aged 11 years and over.



Selected projects within schools

The Every Child Challenge; a Woven in Kirklees project

As a long term facilitator with Woven in Kirklees, I have contributed to many projects with them. These projects centre around celebrating the heritage and history of textiles as well as putting sustainability at the core.

The Every Child Challenge developed from the Mission to Mend programme and focusses on ensuring each child in Golcar can create 5 simple embroidery stitches before they leave primary school. Working with two primary schools in Golcar, we developed a series of fun and inspiring workshops to teach the children basic embroidery skills and techniques. The children made sock puppets, bunting, Christmas decorations and badges.

Teachers took part in both planning and CPD sessions to support the introduction of textiles into their classrooms and wider curriculum.

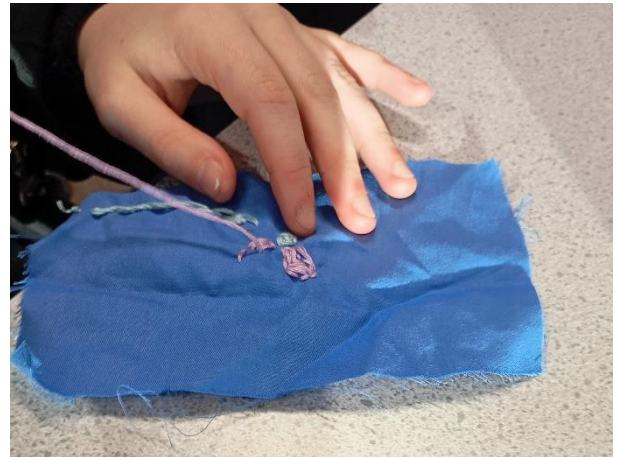
More can be found about the project here

[Every Child Challenge – Golcar – WOVEN](#)



Creative Repair in a High School

A high school in Durham had been working to be more climate aware and develop ways in which they could become more sustainable. Many of their students had suggested a clothing repair service in which some students would repair both school uniform and day to day clothing. Through the Good Life Schools project from Global Action Plan, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, I delivered a Creative Repair workshop to students across the school who were interested in being a part of the project.



As part of the workshop, students learnt basic repair skills such as sewing on buttons before moving on to explore more creative repair skills including patches, adding embroidery and boro embroidery. This workshop provided students with the techniques and knowledge on which to base their repair service within their school.

Banners with a primary school

A primary school in Sunderland asked me to work with all pupils in their school (Reception to Year 6, a two-form intake) to co-create two large scale banners for display in their school hall. Each child was to contribute to both banners.



The first banner was to explore the ethos and motto of the school, with the second banner exploring the children's ideas on what makes a good citizen. This was done over 4 whole days in school, working with the pupils in class groups. The first stage was to work with the pupils to explore the themes and gather ideas over the final design of the banners. They then co-created the design. The pupils then learnt how this was transferred into textiles before creating elements of the hand embroidery for the banner in class groups.

Older pupils worked in small groups to piece the banners together using a sewing machine. Younger pupils came to watch how this was done, providing an insight into the complete journey of creating a piece of textile artwork.

Many of the pupils at the school had additional needs, therefore workshop plans were adapted to ensure all pupils were able to take part and contribute. In addition to the hand embroidery skills to create the banners, pupils also learnt how to work with others, taking others point of view and ideas into consideration as well as how large scale artwork is created.

