

Mobile Arts Area Proposal – Applemore College

“I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms — the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another, the sense of what it is to be a human being.”

— **Oscar Wilde**

Why the Arts Matter

At Applemore College, the Arts aren't an add-on — they're at the heart of who we are. Research shows that engaging with the Performing Arts — as performer or audience — boosts emotional intelligence, creativity, social bonding, and community connection. These experiences help young people understand themselves and others, building confidence and belonging — both key to positive school attendance and wellbeing.

We take this seriously. The Arts are central to school life at Applemore, and we're always seeking new ways to expand access and participation. That's why a **Mobile Arts Space** would be transformational for us.

How We'd Use the Mobile Arts Space

Drama and Music are part of every student's experience at Key Stage 3 and remain popular GCSE options. The new Mobile Arts Space would open up far greater performance opportunities — both for students to perform and for families to share in their achievements.

Currently, our only large performance area is the multi-purpose school hall, which also hosts PE lessons, assemblies, mock and GCSE exams, and lunch during bad weather — leaving little flexibility for rehearsals or performances. Even so, we manage an impressive annual arts calendar, from STEM Day and concerts to our whole school production and summer musical.

An outdoor, purpose-built performance space would allow us to extend and diversify this programme — from small drama showcases to full-scale music, dance, and community events.

Beyond Performance: Celebrating All the Arts

We're proud of our thriving Art and Photography departments. Art is taught across Key Stages 3 and 4, supported by a hugely popular after-school club and regular competitions. A Mobile Arts Space would give us the ability to showcase student (and staff) work in a professional exhibition environment.

31.3% of our students are Pupil Premium, and 24.4% are SEN. Yet more than half of those who take part in our shows or choose Arts-based GCSEs come from these groups. A

dedicated arts venue would let us celebrate these achievements more visibly and inclusively — helping every student feel seen and valued.

Wider School and Community Benefits

Our Technology Department — including Design Technology and Engineering — would also benefit from a flexible exhibition space for showcasing innovation and design projects. We envision hosting cross-school events such as art and photography exhibitions, poetry readings, drama, dance, and music festivals.

Applemore already hosts the Hampshire Book Awards, welcoming schools from across the county. A larger, more adaptable space would let us involve even more schools and visitors. With nine primary schools feeding into us, the Mobile Arts Space could become a shared creative hub for the entire Waterside area.

Student Ideas: Powered by Imagination

When we asked our students how they'd use the Mobile Arts Space, their ideas overflowed with creativity — from storytelling and TED-style talks to comedy nights, talent shows, exhibitions, and charity events. The excitement of this project comes from its versatility and endless potential.

In Summary

The Mobile Arts Space would provide Applemore College and the wider community with a flexible, inclusive, and inspiring venue. It would allow creativity to flourish beyond the limitations of our current facilities — encouraging performance, participation, and pride.

It aligns perfectly with our school values:

Believe. Respect. Determination.

We believe this project can make a lasting difference — not just for our students, but for our whole community. Let's make it happen.

