



## BUSY BUTTONS CORE CHARITY

Busy Buttons CORE is an inclusive local registered charity based in the heart of the Windsor community. CORE stands for Creativity, Opportunity, Respect and Empowerment and these values are central to everything we do. Our primary activity is to deliver arts programmes for the local community, and beyond.

Our core objective and commitment is to nurture wellbeing, especially of young people, by using the arts to encourage co-operation, communication, imagination, and creativity. Through the delivery of a huge range of creative arts, we provide people with the opportunity to develop skills, improve confidence and self-esteem, and to build family relationships through family participation.

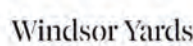
Through our community design studio in Windsor, we work hard to make children feel comfortable and safe. We inclusively welcome children from all backgrounds and abilities, including those with special needs (we call it 'Super Powers') to learn a variety of creative skills, such as filmmaking, animation, fashion design, sculpting, painting and illustration to help them discover their real passions and interests. We offer individual attention and a quality education through small group work and provide the guidance and a helping hand to allow children to learn at their own pace. We encourage them to celebrate their 'unique self' through their design expression. Our referrals are from CAMHS, SENCOs, Adoption Services, NHS and Social Services.

We recognise that some children face multiple barriers to progression, and we know that participation in creative learning can help them overcome a number of these, including confidence, self-esteem, mental health, and loneliness and isolation. Our early intervention aids progression in these areas. It supports wider achievements, such as improved attendance and behaviour at school; improved self-management of anxiety and other low level mental health needs; and the creation of a new network of friends overcoming loneliness. We offer acceptance for all, regardless of 'Super powers', socio-economic background, ability, gender or race.

“ **Having not managed to attend school for three years due to high levels of anxiety this was a huge achievement but thanks to the support and encouragement of the team she achieved more than she ever thought was possible. It helped build up her confidence and self belief to try and give things a go. She is now making the transition back into school and I believe that without her time at Busy Buttons this would not have been possible.** ”  
**- Occupational Therapist & parent.**

The experience of creating and achieving for children who have struggled in mainstream educational environments, or who have faced discrimination and stigma because of their physical or learning disabilities or needs is hugely powerful. Through their work with Busy Buttons they find acceptance, the opportunity to achieve in their own time and using their own skills, and this builds their confidence in their own abilities and their feelings of self-worth.

Registered Charity: 1188606. OFSTED REG NO: 2662296. DUKE OF EDINBURGH LICENSED CENTRE







# THE CHARITY'S OFFER

## Creative Educational Programmes:

Our programme includes free and fee based arts education programmes delivered on a full-time basis, including weekends and school holidays. These are delivered almost exclusively by volunteers.

## Alternative Provision:

In 2021, we also began to offer alternative provision for young people that suffer due to emotionally based school avoidance. With our support, children are able to overcome their barriers and return to school.

## School engagement projects:

The charity annually engages with several public, private and specialised schools enabling them to participate in creative enrichment outside of the class and actively participate in community projects.

## Directly Licensed Duke of Edinburgh Centre:

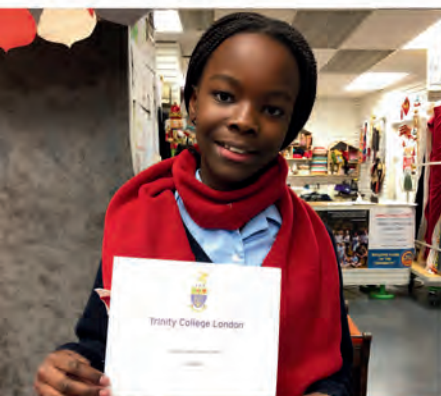
Busy Buttons is an officially licensed Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award Centre. We support young people who would otherwise not participate due to low self-esteem or anxiety to achieve all their DofE levels on our various programmes. Our safe and nurturing environment offers the space and support these young people need to help them achieve their goals.

## Work experience:

We also provide opportunities for young people to gain work experience as part of their placement experience for school or college and internships for University students.

## Arts Award Centre:

We also offer Arts Awards certification from Trinity College, London through our various programmes, maybe the first experience of a 'qualification' for some of these young people.



*I have autism which makes life more difficult for me including school ..... I love going to Busy Buttons to learn new things and wish I could do it everyday. Busy Buttons has taught me that I can do anything if I put my mind to it.*  
- 10 year old student with 'Superpowers'.





# IMPACT

# 15,500

beneficiaries



Free places offered to low income families referred to the charity



# £291,346

Social Value contribution to the community\* in 2021

\*HACT Wellbeing Valuation Approach

# 2,000+

interactive teaching hours delivered online during Covid

AUTISM IS MY Super POWER

# 33%

of young people attending our regular programmes were registered with CAMHS or have clinically diagnosed special education needs

# 60%

of the young people attending our Alternative Provision have returned / resumed to school



# 30+

Community engagement projects



# RA

Royal Academy of Arts

# 3

Busy Buttons' students art selected for display at The Royal Academy of Arts, Young Artists Summer Show, London from 21000 entries nationally



# 2,200+

school creative enrichment workshops



**NATIONAL KS1 WINNER, 2 SHORTLISTED STUDENTS & NATIONAL WINNER OF THE DESIGNER'S AWARD FOR BEST CRAFT SCHOOL 2023**



*"This award is for all the artists and staff at Busy Buttons, recognising their excellence in developing work that celebrates both individual voices and their diverse community as a whole. Staff create space for learners to explore personal approaches, encourage experimentation and support self-reflection of learner's work. Each artist's work is unique and celebrates their individual passions and imagination."*

- Crafts Council UK on Busy Buttons receiving the Designer's Yinka Ilori Award





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

The programme of activities at Busy Buttons is extensive and too numerous to list in its entirety. However, some notable examples are included below.

The Platinum Orb', an 11ft tall spherical community art installation, created using 70 recycled bicycle wheels and over 700 milk bottles. The art installation created together with over 1000 members of the local community was on display on The Long Walk as part of the official Platinum Jubilee celebrations.



A celebration of Queen Victoria's 200th anniversary through a repurposed Victorian Steam Punk Swimwear Fashion Collection, imaginatively designed and crafted together with 12 children using 100% recycled fabrics.



A ground-breaking online theatre project involving young people working alongside senior citizens who were children during WW2. We offered 2000h+ ongoing online arts sessions throughout Covid, and enabled young people to take part by delivering art packs to their homes.



A Remembrance Day project involving the design and manufacture of 152 giant poppies made of parachute material, beautifully adorning the Queen's Diamond Jubilee monument in Windsor. The project was carried out with families of the Coldstream and Welsh Guard from 2 local barracks and sponsored by Windsor Yards Shopping Centre.



Busy Buttons curated and delivered 'The little GREAT Exhibition' to commemorate Queen Victoria's Bicentenary. With generous contributions by The Royal Collection Trust: Windsor Castle, The Household Cavalry, The Toor collection of Sikh art and local organisations this community engagement project engaged over 360 school children, 1000s of visitors and members of the local community in a celebration of Victorian history.



***"The work Busy Buttons is doing is desperately needed and enriching. Bringing together cultures to the creative medium of arts and heritage workshops is mind opening."***

-Davinder Toor, art collector, consultant to V&A Museum, British Museum, director of 'The Toor collection of Sikh Art' & as featured on BBC.