



River of Hope 2024/2025



River of Hope artwork created by schools in 2022

Free Creative and Environmental Opportunity for KS3

We would like to offer your school the opportunity to take part in **River of Hope**: a free creative project for Key Stage 3 pupils.

River of Hope is an international art and education project which aims to inspire young people through creativity whilst addressing key Climate Change and environmental issues.

The project encourages young people to explore and reflect on local and global issues. Using their local river as a starting point for the work, young people are guided by a professional artist and poet to respond to particular environmental themes. The final product will be the creation of a series of flags/sails (or similar) for public installation, spoken word pieces and a short film in each location which tells the story of the river using the voices of the young people.

Each school involved in the project will be asked to select a group of Year 8 or 9 pupils to come off timetable and be involved in an immersive creative experience. You will also be required to take part in a hands-on river experience at the start of the project.

River of Hope has a number of key stages:

- **Project briefing session** – a zoom session, involving art teacher/s from your school, the purpose is to meet all the schools involved and the artist and poet who will be coming into your school as well as to learn more about the project.
- **Access to online resources** – a number of resources have been developed to complement and enhance the programme, these include spoken word and music films as well as climate change and global learning webinars.
- **Environmental visit** – you will be asked to select a class group of Year 8 or 9 pupils to take part in an environmental trip to your local river, where you will be able to learn and take part in climate change discussions. The poet will accompany you on this visit.
- **Practical art and spoken word workshop** – the same group of pupils to take part in artist-led workshops delivered by a specialist artists in your school. There will also be a follow-up poetry session following the river visit.
- **Installation at Norfolk & Norwich Festival 2025** – the artwork produced by your school will be transferred onto a sail (or similar) and will form part of an installation at NNF 2025. All of the artwork created will also be exhibited as part of an online project gallery

- **River of Hope Film** – a film documenting the story of River of Hope in Norwich, and featuring your school, will be available for you to share with your school community.

How to get involved:

We have a limited number of places for schools. If you would like to take part please contact David Stothard on david.stothard@nnfestival.org.uk

The project is designed for Year 8 and 9 pupils. For more information www.riverofhope.org

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Forde

Head of Education & Engagement

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Project schedule

Nov/Dec 2024	Access to online resources. You will receive log in info and a page on our website where you will be able to access all the newly created project resources.
Nov/Dec 2024	Project briefing. This will involve a Zoom session where you will meet the artist who will be working in your school, meet the other schools involved in the project and find out more about the programme.
Feb - Mar 25	Environmental visit. You will receive a half day visit where young people will learn about their local environment and spark conversation about climate change. This will be with your poet.
Feb - Mar 25	In-school art workshops. Each school will receive 3 half day workshop sessions during this time with a professional artist, and a follow up poetry session. We will schedule these sessions with you and they will usually consist of a half day followed by a full day.
May 2025	Installation. The artwork will be reproduced onto sails or flags and displayed as part of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival for hundreds to enjoy!
June 2025	River of Hope film released and shared with all participants.