



Suppliers

Buying art supplies doesn't need to be expensive or intimidating. It is simply not the case that to make good, high quality artwork you have to have all the right kit - and the art making activities have been created with this in mind. Having said this, it can be off putting if your participants think the materials and equipment they're using are poor quality, or made for children. It's about choosing the right supplier for the right kit, so you don't end up spending a fortune on pencil sharpeners with little budget left for nice thick, glossy paint! The **materials list** indicates good materials/supplier matches.

The suppliers listed below offer a broad range; from basic, to school arts suppliers, craft hobbies and specialist art suppliers. The more sessions you run, the more experience you will have of using the materials and so the more confident you will become in knowing which materials are important for your group. Start with small amounts - that way if you buy a 250ml bottle of paint and find it too thin, you're not stuck with a litre bottle to use up before buying differently next time. This is also a good reason not to buy everything in one go. Start with simple things and expand when you're ready.

Supplier	Website / store	Overview
GLS Educational Supplies	Buy online www.glsed.co.uk	Online retailer with a huge range, aimed at schools: check the materials don't look too young before purchasing. Offer free next day delivery over £25 (order by 2pm). Option to pay on account/invoice too.
Baker Ross	Buy online www.bakerross.co.uk	Online retailer, mainly providing children's arts and craft supplies. Huge range and a great place to go for new ideas / to find equipment to tailor an activity to someone's ability and needs. Less of a schools focus.
The Works	Buy online OR visit a store www.theworks.co.uk	Great value for a wide range of arts and crafts materials. Particularly good on low cost paper, craft equipment and stick on bits / embellishments! Often offer brand names for less, eg. pritt stick, DAS clay.
Poundshop	Buy online OR visit a store www.poundshop.com/kids-toys/kids-arts-crafts.html	This particular poundshop is the only one I've found that delivers. Again the materials are mainly marketed for children but can be used by all ages. Good for essentials like felt tip pens, pencils, but also seasonal craft materials (eg. spring crafts / Easter / Halloween).
Poundland	Find your nearest store www.poundland.co.uk/stor-e-finder	Almost every highstreet has a pound shop of some sort these days - if you don't have a <i>Poundshop</i> , perhaps you have a <i>Poundland</i> nearby. Again, basic materials

		are best here. If in doubt try in small batches.
Ikea	Buy online OR visit a store www.ikea.com/gb/en	Ikea delivery fee is high in comparison to the price of the materials, so if you happen to be visiting, keep in mind they're good for art materials and cheap storage. More importantly, Ikea do very cheap, decent frames in black / white / light wood with a mount (not glass). So if you would like to feature work produced in your sessions, or hold a small exhibition, consider Ikea.
Amazon	Buy online www.amazon.co.uk	Amazon is the place to go for anything and everything these days and if your organisation has a prime / business account you can often get next day delivery. It is still great to be able to look at something before you buy it, but Amazon is ideal for buying in bulk.
Tiger	Find your nearest store uk.flyingtiger.com/en-GB/find-store	Cheap and quirky, Tiger (full name Flying Tiger) is a great stop for grown up, low cost art materials. There is always something new to find here. Just a word of caution; stock rotates so don't rely on being able to get more of something at peak times such as Christmas.
WHSmiths	Buy online OR visit a store www.whsmith.co.uk/art-and-craft	Great for all kinds of materials. Can be quite expensive so wouldn't recommend getting basics here but worth exploring their professional looking materials. They often do good offers. If you run out of something at the last minute, it's a reliable highstreet name to run to!
Hobbycraft	Buy online OR visit a store: www.hobbycraft.co.uk	As the name suggests, Hobbycraft can offer more specific materials as well as the essentials. This can be useful if someone demonstrates a niche skill or interest you would like to encourage and develop, eg. crochet.
Cass Art	Buy online OR visit a store www.cassart.co.uk	A proper art shop used by students, fledgling artists and professionals alike! Reward card system to acquire points and get money off. More useful when you know what you would like but good for inspiration too. A brilliant range of drawing materials to explore.

This is not an exhaustive list by any means and where possible, it's always preferable to support your local independent art shop. However, these suppliers will certainly be sufficient to get you started,

to work out what you like, give you confidence in what you're buying and sustain your creative work for weeks to come! Good luck and as always do get in touch for support: tweet us @benurigallery.