

# Climate Unity: Circular Art 2026



**14 – 22 July 2026**

**CELEBRATING RESOURCEFULNESS,  
CREATIVITY AND CARE FOR THE PLANET**



Preview at West Downs Art Gallery,  
University of Winchester  
14 July 4:30-7pm



# About the exhibition

Welcome to Climate Unity: Circular Art – a celebration of creativity, collaboration and hope for a more sustainable future.

This exhibition showcases artworks created by schools across Hampshire using re-purposed musical instruments that might otherwise have been discarded. Through sculpture, assemblage, painting and mixed-media techniques, children and young people have transformed forgotten objects into powerful works of art that speak of climate action, imagination and possibility. What was once considered old, broken or no longer useful has been given a new life, reminding us that with creativity and care, transformation is always possible.

Climate Unity: Circular Art is a special collaboration between Hampshire Improvement and Advisory Service (HIAS) and The Hampshire Music Education Hub with support from Southampton University. It brings together children and young people, artists, educators, musicians, scientists and communities, demonstrating how creativity can inspire positive environmental change. Every artwork in this exhibition reflects the ideas, hopes and voices of young people who are imagining a better future for our planet.

## Exhibition Venue and Times

**Venue:** West Downs Art Gallery, University of Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester SO22 5DL

**Dates:** 14th July – 22 July 2026

**FREE** entry

# About the exhibition

## What is Circular Art?

Circular Art is inspired by the principles of the circular economy – reusing, repairing and re-purposing materials instead of throwing them away. By giving unwanted instruments a second life, these artworks encourage us to see value where others might see waste. They remind us that innovation often begins by looking at familiar things in new ways and that even small acts of reuse can contribute to a more sustainable world.

This exhibition marks the sixth year of Climate Unity, celebrating six years of creativity, environmental action and shared purpose. Over that time, thousands of young people have contributed artwork, ideas and messages that encourage communities to care for our planet and for one another. Every piece of art you see at Climate Unity tells a story. Some may make us smile, some may challenge us to think differently, but all demonstrate the extraordinary potential of imagination, teamwork and kindness. Together, they show that positive change begins when people come together with a shared vision and a determination to make a difference.

As you explore the exhibition, we invite you to reflect:

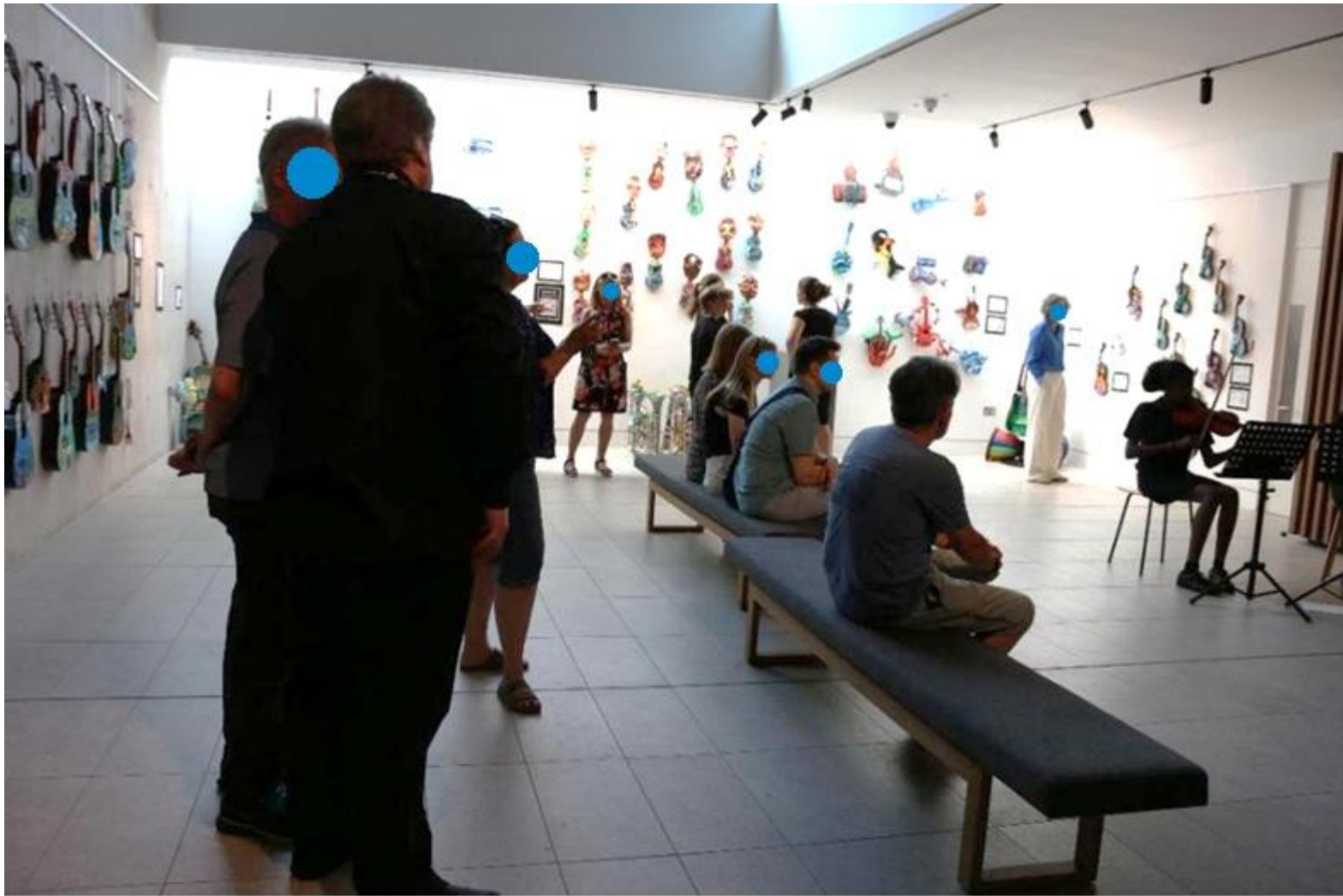
- How have these artists transformed discarded materials into something meaningful?
- What messages about the environment and our future can you discover? How might we all rethink, repair and reuse the objects in our own lives?
- What role can creativity play in shaping a better future for our communities and our planet?

This exhibition reminds us that every positive action begins with an idea. When imagination is combined with collaboration, care and determination, remarkable things can happen. The young people whose work you see here are not only creating art – they are helping us imagine a more sustainable future.

To find out more or to be involved in future projects please get in touch with Kerry Kenward: [kerry.kenward2@hants.gov.uk](mailto:kerry.kenward2@hants.gov.uk) or Dr Jayne Stillman: [jayne.stillman@hants.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.stillman@hants.gov.uk)











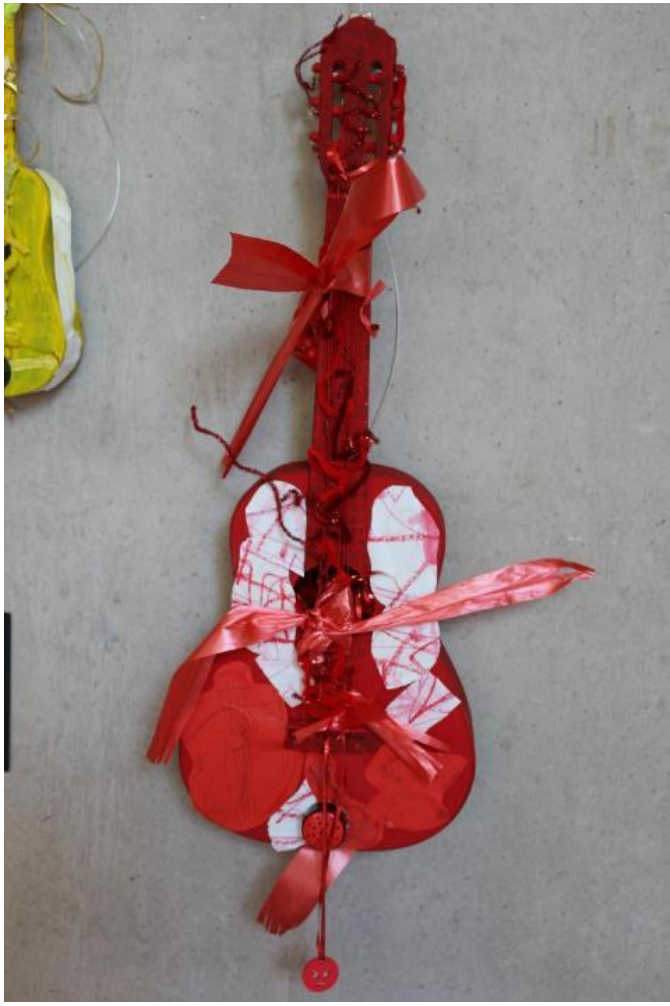
# Norman Gate School



This collaborative artwork was created by 12 students from Fox Class at Norman Gate School during the Summer Term. The project explores emotions through colour, music, and mark-making, with children responding to four pieces of music linked to the emotional colour zones:

- Mars from *The Planets* by Gustav Holst (Red Zone)
- Jupiter from *The Planets* by Gustav Holst (Yellow Zone)
- Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber (Green Zone)
- String Quartet No. 8 in C Minor by Dmitri Shostakovich (Blue Zone)

The children created expressive artwork in response to the music, which was then developed into four instrument-shaped pieces (two guitars and two ukuleles) using a range of mixed-media techniques.



# The Hamble School



This project was undertaken by our Arts Ambassadors.

We initially explored artists who were inspired by music, before broadening our research to include musicians who were inspired by art.

Inspired by these connections, the students recreated individual artworks on the surfaces of musical instruments, celebrating the relationship between visual art and music in a creative and imaginative way



# The Burgate School and Sixth Form

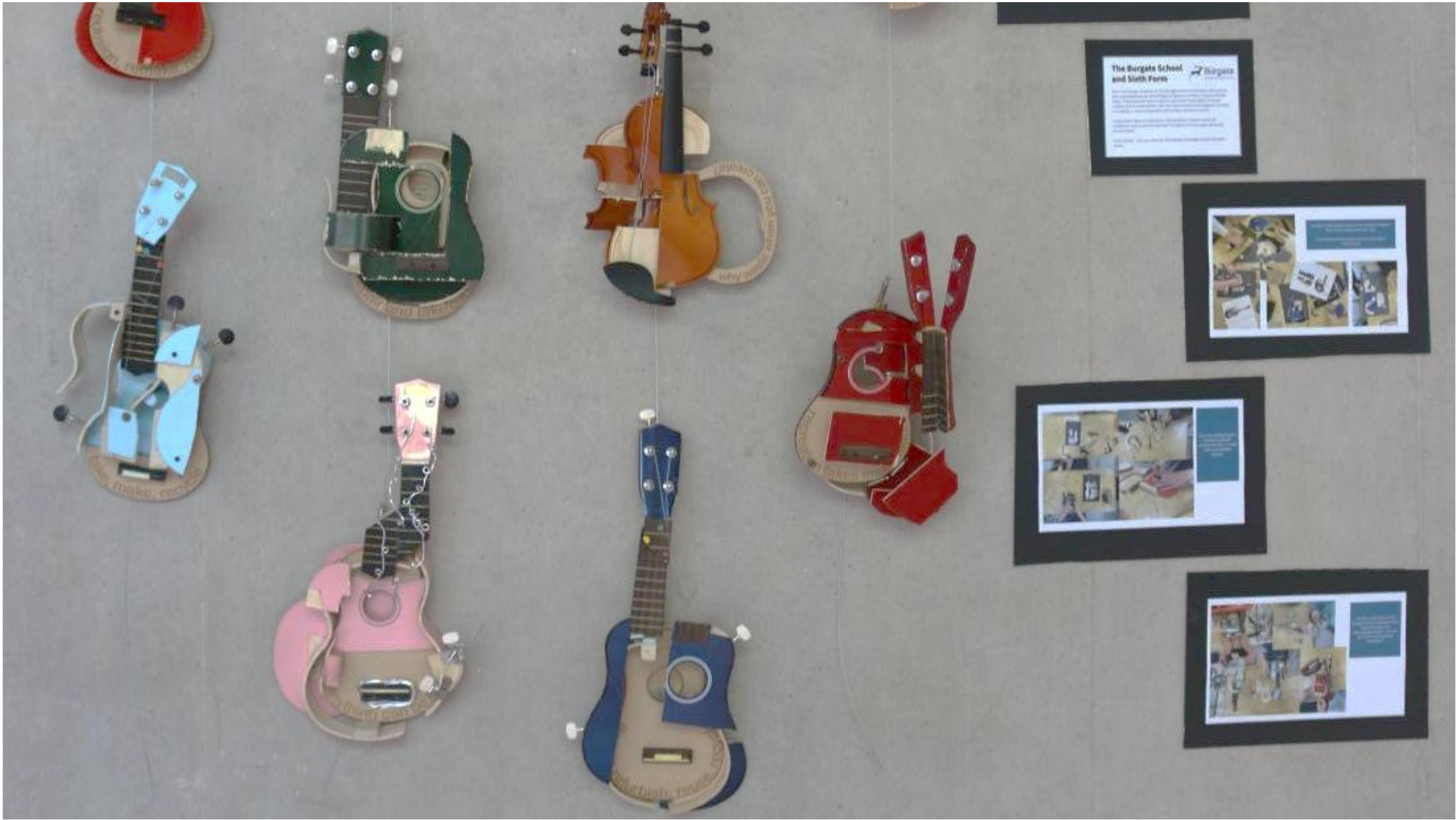


Year 9 3D Design students at The Burgate School have spent the summer term investigating the assemblage sculptures of Pablo Picasso and Koji Takei. They explored how sculpture can reveal more about a chosen subject and considered the role that future artists and designers can play in creating a more sustainable and climate-conscious world.

Using these ideas as inspiration, the students created a series of sculptures that communicate their thoughts and messages about the environment.

Look closely – can you discover the hidden messages woven into their work?





# Wildern School



Over 100 Year 7, 8, and 9 students collaborated to create this vibrant exhibition piece. The intricate non-Western motifs and dreamcatchers were crafted by our Year 7 and 8 students and were designed to welcome positive spirits and energy to the viewer.

Meanwhile, Year 9 students explored non-Western pattern-making, drawing inspiration from the work of Vincent van Gogh, Wassily Kandinsky, and Nick Wakeling.

Through this exploration, they experimented with synaesthesia—the translation of sensory experiences into visual art—and adopted a tactile approach by combining acrylic pens with vintage-style sweet wrappers. Our students thoroughly enjoyed bringing this project to life as a celebration of the end of the school year, and they hope it brings you as much joy to view as they had creating it.



[Click here to listen](#)







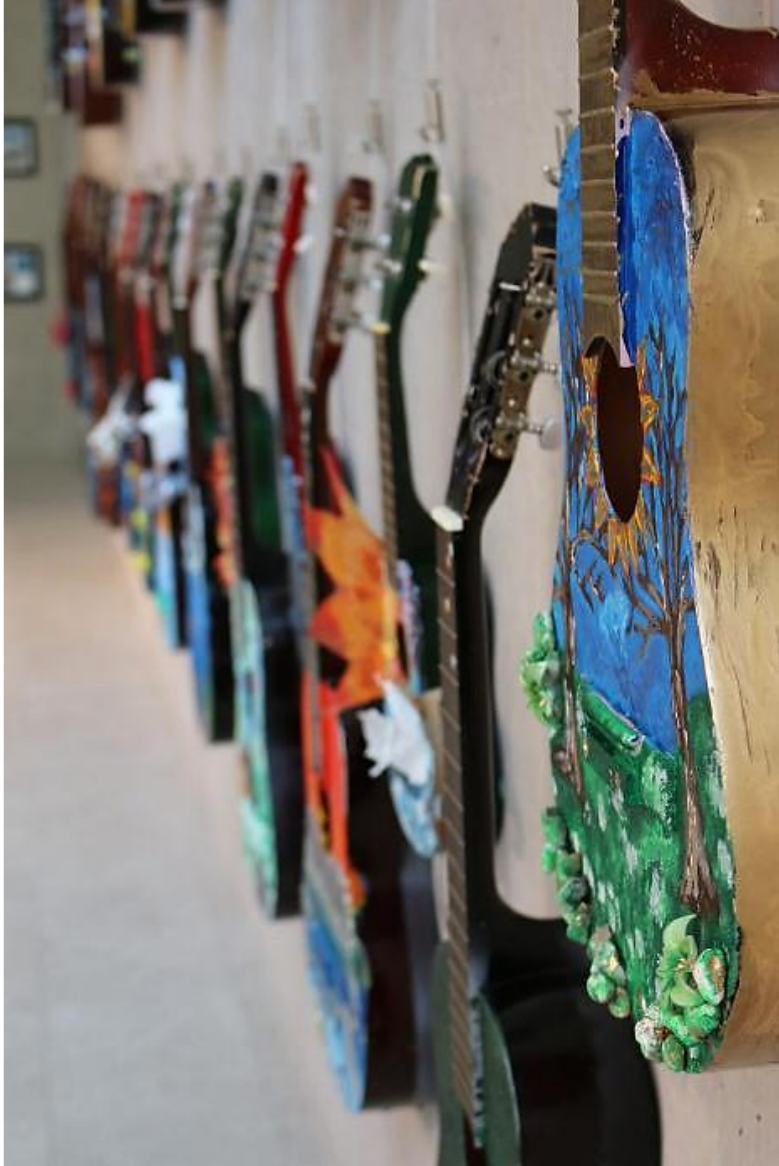






















# Denmead Junior School



Thirty children (Year 3 to Year 6) from our Eco and Nurture Groups took part in the Climate Unity art project.

The children explored the importance of reusing and repurposing materials, developing creative new ideas for their instruments. Inspired by nature and the environment, they used mainly salvaged and recycled materials in their designs.

1. Cello – Re-purposed into a dolls house with furniture made from recycled materials
2. Ukulele – Bird house decoupaged with pages from damaged books
3. Guitar – Bookshelf decorated from pages from a damaged book and pictures to link with the story book pages
4. Small Cello - Bird House decorated with bird pictures
5. Guitar – Bird house with perching places- inspired by trees
6. Guitar – Decorative flower ornament
7. Trumpet – Re-purposed as a pencil holder
8. Ukulele – Flowerpot holder – colours inspired by the sky and nature
9. Cello- Plant pot – decoration inspired by ponds and nature
10. Guitar – Flowerpot
11. Drum – Table made using a broken drum and back of a guitar- decorated with damaged book pages
12. Ukulele – Decorated
13. Ukulele – Re-purposed into a Night light
14. Cello – Plant pot – decoration inspired by nature









# The Romsey School



Students from Romsey School took part in this creative project by transforming a collection of brass and woodwind instruments into vibrant artworks inspired by the theme of the sea. Using paint, collage, and mixed-media techniques, the students explored the colours and textures of marine environments.

The instruments were decorated with layers of painted paper and enhanced with a variety of shapes and sea creatures, carefully modelled from coloured clay. Fish, shells, coral, starfish, and other marine forms were added to create striking three-dimensional pieces that celebrate the diversity and beauty of ocean life.

Through this project, students were encouraged to express their creativity while exploring connections to the natural world.







# Weeke Primary School



Our school's Eco Team wanted to take part in this project because we wanted to demonstrate how old items can be reused in creative ways. Each year group decorated a trumpet in the style of Kev Munday, linking their designs to topics they had been learning about in geography or science, such as rivers and oceans, plants and flowers, and recycling.

We used recycled test papers in our artwork so that old paper could be given a new purpose instead of being thrown away. While decorating our trumpets, we talked a lot about sustainability and how reusing materials can help the planet.

The Eco Team also had the idea of turning the decorated trumpets into flower pots. We wanted to show that old objects can be transformed into something beautiful and useful instead of becoming waste. This project encouraged us to think about the circular economy and how giving things a new purpose can make a big difference.

The Eco Team feels that this project has sparked valuable conversations about the future of our planet.









# Vigo Primary School



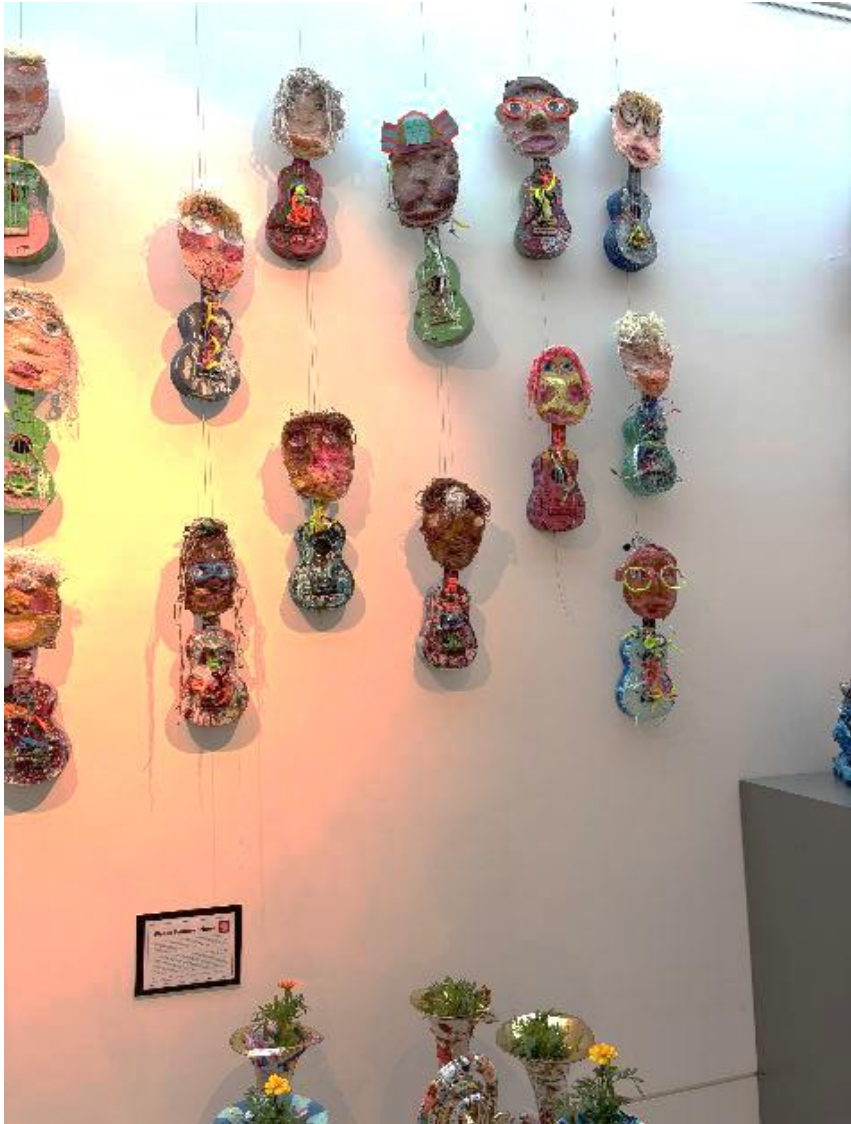
Children from three Year 2 classes have been working collaboratively on this project. Our inspiration came from the colourful pop music culture of the 1990s, with a focus on form, bright colours, and fun!

We wanted to celebrate our school choir and their beautiful talent by transforming ukuleles into singing children, inspired by records featuring their favourite songs.

The result is a vibrant and joyful artwork that reflects both the energy of 90s pop culture and the creativity of our young artists.

Scan the QR code to listen to the Vigo School Choir





# The Mark Way School



Year 9 students from The Mark Way School in Andover have worked on this project over the past 12 weeks. They began by researching artists for inspiration and discussing which climate change issues were most important to them.

The students then created designs for each musical instrument, linking them to their chosen environmental themes. Using newspaper, Mod Roc, papier-mâché, found materials, and paint, they transformed the instruments into unique three-dimensional artworks.

To complement their 3D pieces, the students designed posters showcasing their finished work and created a presentation to share their ideas, reflections on the project, and their thoughts about how climate change affects them and the wider world.

## The Mark Way School



To view their presentation which shares their ideas, reflections on the project, and their thoughts about how climate change affects them and the wider world.



Scan the QR Code

[The Mark Way School - Climate Unity | PDF to Flipbook](#)







# The Wavell School



The Year 7 and 8 Art Club at The Wavell School designed and created this piece. They chose to produce an artwork that celebrates their school community, incorporating the names of the school houses and the school's core behaviours throughout the design.

The students took inspiration from the artist Keith Haring and his vibrant style to explore the theme of music. His iconic dancing figures can be seen inside the guitars, appearing to 'cheer on' the school houses.

The art students also collaborated with the Design and Technology Department, learning how to deconstruct and reassemble the decorated instruments to create this free-standing sculpture. By repurposing the instruments in this way, they have given them a new lease of life.





# Smannell Field School

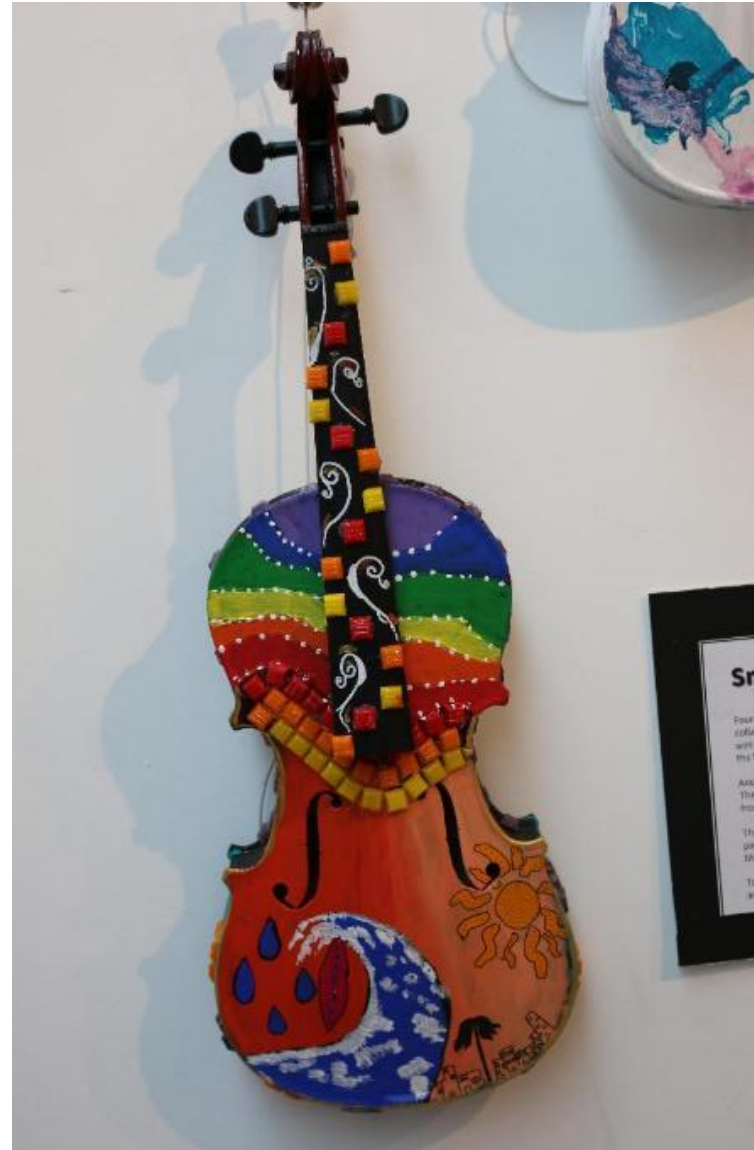


Four students worked on the three violins, with one instrument being a collaborative piece created by a Year 10 and a Year 11 student. Their artwork was inspired by the sea, featuring a bright and colourful daytime seascape on the front and a moonlit coastal scene on the reverse.

Another violin was created by a Year 11 student and explores a floral theme. The piece combines painted flowers with three-dimensional blooms made from wire and dried layers of PVA glue and acrylic paint.

The final violin was designed by a Year 8 student, who experimented with a painting technique using diluted paint and a hairdryer to create flowing, blended effects.

Together, the three pieces showcase a range of creative ideas, techniques, and artistic styles developed by students across different year groups.



# Locks Heath Junior School



Locks Heath  
Junior School  
"Where Children Come First"

## Year 6 Art Installation Inspired by Music and Abstract Art

The Year 6 art group at Locks Heath Junior School explored the work of Grażyna Bacewicz, listening to her *Overture*, a piece of music that cleverly incorporates hidden Morse code. Inspired by the rhythms, patterns and emotions within the music, the children considered how sound can be represented visually.

The group then studied the work of Wassily Kandinsky, whose abstract paintings were often inspired by music. Using Kandinsky's ideas as a starting point, the children created their own collection of abstract shapes and designs before applying them to violin sculptures. The decorated violins were then brought together to create a vibrant outdoor art installation in the school grounds. To enhance the experience, the pupils also created a QR code that allows visitors to listen to Bacewicz's *Overture* while viewing the artwork.

By combining music, art and technology, the installation encourages pupils and visitors to explore the connection between sound, colour, shape and creativity in a unique and interactive way. The project celebrates imagination, artistic expression and the powerful relationship between music and visual art.

# Locks Heath Junior School



Locks Heath  
Junior School  
"Where Children Come First"

Scan the QR code the children created by the children to listen to Bacewicz's *Overture* while viewing the artwork.



[Grażyna Bacewicz – Overture - BBC Teach](#)





## Exhibition details

The exhibition was hosted at The West Downs, Winchester University, from 14 July to 22 July 2026.

# Thanks to:

A special thank you to our partners for making this happen:  
Hampshire Music Education Hub.

Hampshire school's children and young people and their teachers, families and communities.

Helen Davies, Creative Arts team, West Downs Gallery team, University of Winchester.

Hampshire Improvement and Advisory Service, Children's Services Directorate, Hampshire County Council.

Joe Ross, Good Idea Today: Artist.

Tina Scahill MA BA FRSA FHEA, Senior Lecturer & Co Program Lead in Digital Media Design, Faculty of Education & Arts, University of Winchester Business School.

West Downs Gallery team, University of Winchester.

Ian Williams, Professor of Applied Environmental Science, Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences, University of Southampton.

# Media

Read the following articles:

[www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/26276113.pupils-try-musical-rewrites-environmental-measures/](http://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/26276113.pupils-try-musical-rewrites-environmental-measures/)

[www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/26278552.pupils-turning-broken-musical-instruments-climate-art/](http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/26278552.pupils-turning-broken-musical-instruments-climate-art/)

[www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260713climateunity](http://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260713climateunity)

[www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260713climateunity](http://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260713climateunity)

## Young people across Hampshire to showcase climate-themed artwork made from old musical instruments

Young people from 12 schools across Hampshire are taking part in a countywide art project that turns unwanted musical instruments into public artwork

Jul  
13  
2026

🕒 2 minute read (376 words)





The project, **Climate Unity: Circular Art**, will be exhibited at West Downs Art Gallery, University of Winchester, from 14 to 22 July 2026, with a preview event on 14 July from 4.30pm to 7pm. The exhibition will showcase work created by pupils using old and damaged instruments that would otherwise have been thrown away.

Led by Hampshire County Council for a sixth year, the project invites schools to create 3D artworks by repurposing musical instruments and using recycled, salvaged or natural materials. The pieces reflect young people's views on sustainability, waste and care for the environment.

The work has been shaped by children and young people's own reflections on issues including pollution, protecting natural environments, reducing waste and using resources more carefully.

Councillor Juliet Henderson, Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Education, said: "Children and young people are already thinking seriously about the environment and the kind of future they want to see. This project gives them a practical and creative way to express that.

"It is also a good example of how schools can explore climate issues in a positive, hands-on way, while encouraging pupils to think differently about waste and the value of materials."

The project has brought together two County Council services: the [Hampshire Improvement and Advisory Service](#)  (HIAS) and the [Hampshire Music Education Hub](#) , alongside schools and community partners. Old instruments have been given a new purpose through creative reuse, with each piece forming part of a larger shared installation.

As well as producing artwork for public display, pupils have been exploring the idea of the circular economy – looking at how materials can be reused, repaired and reimagined instead of simply being discarded. The project also supports wider learning across the curriculum, with resources made available to schools to help them explore environmental issues through art, music and other subjects.

The exhibition aims to show how art and music can help children and young people communicate their views on climate and the environment in a clear and imaginative way.

## Young people from 12 schools across Hampshire are showcasing climate-themed artwork created from old musical instruments as part of our Climate Unity: Circular Art project

Now in its sixth year, the project brings together colleagues from our Hampshire Music Education Hub and Hampshire Improvement and Advisory Service (HIAS), combining expertise in music, art and environmental education to create a unique learning experience for pupils.

The exhibition, on display at West Downs Art Gallery at the University of Winchester until 22 July, features 3D artworks made from unwanted and damaged musical instruments that have been transformed using recycled, salvaged and natural materials.

By working together, our music and education specialists have helped schools explore sustainability through both artistic expression and musical heritage. Instruments that are no longer suitable for performance have been given a new purpose, becoming the centrepiece of artworks shaped by young people's ideas about the environment and the future.

**Come along!**

**Climate Unity: Circular Art** is on display at West Downs Art Gallery, University of Winchester, until 22 July 2026.



Young people showcase climate-themed artwork

<https://hants.sharepoint.com/sites/CN/SitePages/Creative-partnership-gives-old-instruments-a-new-life.aspx?fromNewsL2=true&locale=en-us>

The project encourages pupils to think creatively about waste, reuse and the circular economy. Instead of seeing old instruments as something to be thrown away, pupils have reimagined them as valuable resources that can be repaired, repurposed and transformed.

Through the combination of music, art and environmental learning, young people have explored issues such as pollution, protecting natural habitats and making better use of resources. Their finished pieces demonstrate how creative subjects can help bring complex ideas to life in ways that are both engaging and accessible.

The exhibition also highlights the benefits of collaboration across our services, with colleagues from HIAS and Hampshire Music Education Hub working alongside schools and community partners to support learning across the curriculum.

The result is a vibrant collection of artworks that demonstrates how music and art can work together to inspire conversations about climate action, sustainability and caring for the world around us.



[hantsmusichub.org.uk](https://hantsmusichub.org.uk)



## Hampshire County Council

47,140 followers

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Watch how young people across Hampshire have given unwanted musical instruments a new lease of life through art and get a glimpse into the thinking behind the artwork 🎨🎵🗣️

The Climate Unity: Circular Art project brings together pupils from 12 Hampshire schools to explore climate and sustainability issues through creative reuse. Their finished artworks, made from old instruments and recycled materials, are now on display at the [University of Winchester](#)'s West Downs Art Gallery.

If you have an interest in education, creativity or sustainability do visit the exhibition and see the full installation up close!

📍 West Downs Art Gallery, University of Winchester

📅 Exhibition open until 22 July 2026

[#ClimateUnity](#) [#CircularEconomy](#) [#Sustainability](#)  
[#ArtsEducation](#) [#EnvironmentalEducation](#)

[www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7485328061060661248/](https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7485328061060661248/)



