

Schools Resource: Stories on Walls

Public Art for Your School

In this resource, you will:

- Learn about public art
- Explore how it connects to communities
- Create your own artwork that celebrates the diversity of your school

heartofglass



Art Everywhere for Everyone

This resource was produced by [Heart of Glass](#), a Merseyside-based community arts organisation that brings artists and communities together to make art.

The ideas and content were developed by artists/designers [Interference Art](#) in collaboration with [Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School](#) in St Helens.

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Interference Art workshops with Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School, St Helens
Photo by Radka Dolinska

Exploring Public Art

Together we will:

- Learn about artists
- Create our own artist collective



Billy Colours creating the Grow Up mural in St Helens
Photo by Radka Dolinska

Introduction

Exploring Public Art

Think about public art
you've seen.

What's it about?
Who made it?
Why?



Nomad Clan launching their murals in St Helens
Photo by Radka Dolinska

What is Public Art?

Exploring Public Art

“Street Art is powerful because it makes people happy and brightens up public spaces. It makes people feel proud of their community.”

– Billy Colours

Sometimes public art is made with communities. Here are three artists who work in this way. The artworks you are about to see were made in the Northwest of England with different groups including schoolchildren like you.

These artworks have brought diverse groups of people together to tell their stories.

Discuss:

Why might people make art on the street instead of exhibiting in a gallery?



Grow Up by Billy Colours with Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School
Photo by Radka Dolinska

Nomad Clan

Exploring Public Art

UK-based, internationally known street art duo.

Nomad Clan are two artists - Cbloxx and AYLO - who work as an 'artist collective'.

Together Nomad Clan:

- Paint giant murals around the world.
- Celebrate local history, folklore and heritage.
- Create art to tell people's stories that might not otherwise get shared or heard.
- Ask us to think about: fairness, people's rights and our responsibilities to each other.



Nomad Clan creating Keep Going, Keep Growing
Photo by Radka Dolinska

Learn from Nomad Clan

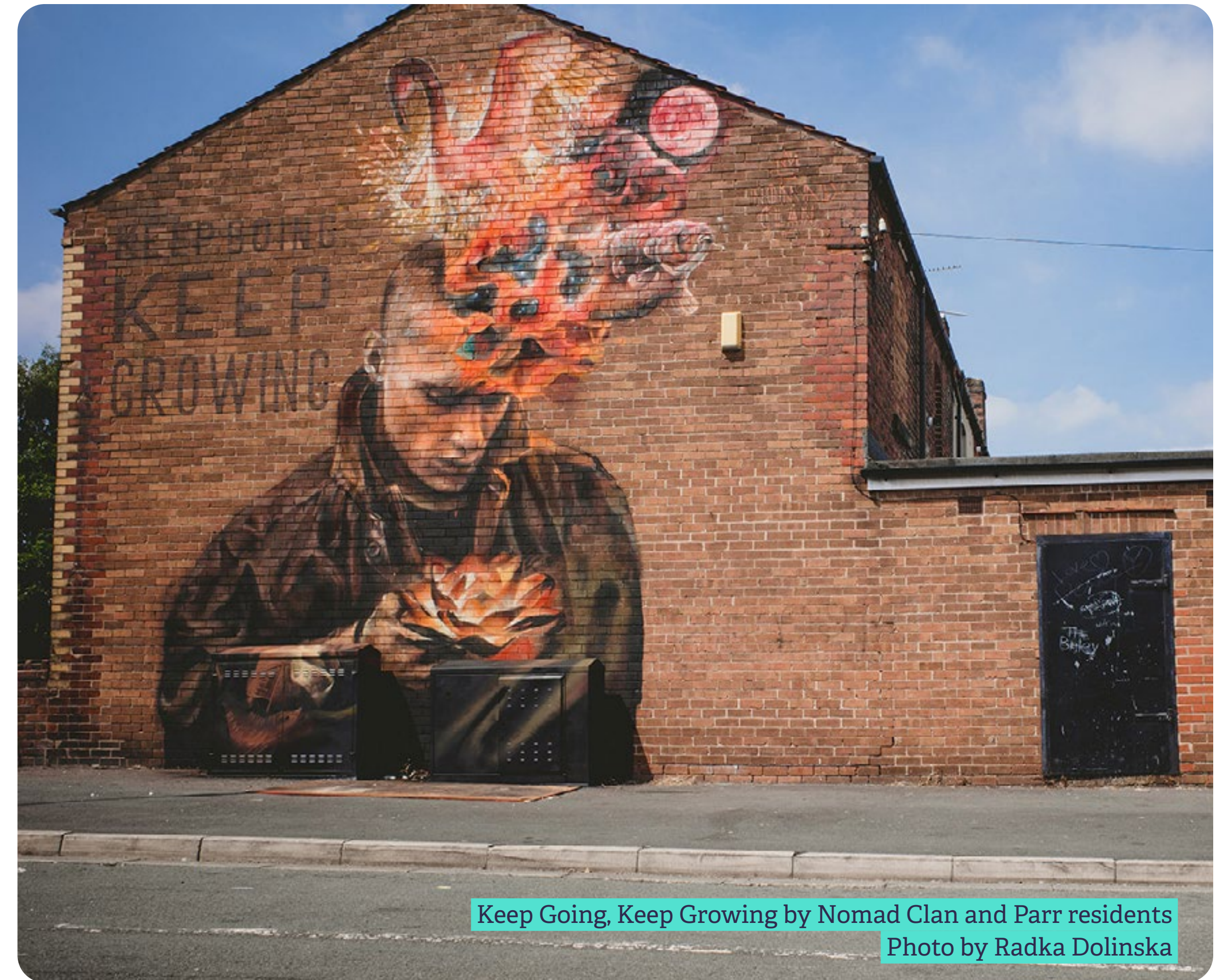
Exploring Public Art

Cbloxx about WHY they make their art:

“It beautifies, it opens up dialogue, it connects people to the place they live in. Sometimes it allows communities to be visible who aren’t - or have been overlooked.”

Discuss:

What kind of people are usually celebrated in public art and who’s not?



Keep Going, Keep Growing by Nomad Clan and Parr residents

Photo by Radka Dolinska

Learn from Nomad Clan

Exploring Public Art

How they make their art:

“We’re not afraid of putting emotion in. I think that’s why I enjoy it - putting things in the art that make you feel something.”

“Often I start with an idea or a drawing and develop it from there. I’ll work from different photographs or drawings.”

“I use spray paint and emulsion. I’m using more brushes and emulsion now and using spray paint just to finish off - it’s better for the environment, and it’s better for me!”



Nomad Clan creating Keep Going, Keep Growing
Photo by Radka Dolinska

Your Artist Collective Name

Exploring Public Art

Imagine your class is an artist collective – what name would you chose?

Nomad Clan's name came from:

Nomad: *"We are always on the move... painting murals all over the place, so it seemed fitting."*

Clan: *"Comes from our commitment to what we do, and to each other."*

Think about:

- Things you have in common?
- What matters to your class?
- Anything you all take part in?
- What unites you?



Representing Our School

Together we will:

- Consider characteristics
- Discuss our school values
- Receive our artist brief



Strong Women sister mural at St Marie's Catholic Primary School, Kirkby, created by Claire Eddleston and the school community inspired by the main artworks in St Helens and Knowsley.

Photo by Jessica Meade

Our Protected Characteristics

Representing Our School

We should all be treated fairly. The law says you can't treat people badly because of who they are or how they look.

Protected characteristics:

- Age
- Who we choose to love
- Gender
- Religion
- Race
- Disability

Think about how:

Protect means to keep someone safe from danger or harm.

Discuss:

Why does being safe matter?



Values We Share

Representing Our School

Tolerance

A new student has joined your class. They speak a different language than you do.

Reflect:

Has this happened at your school?
What did people do?

Ask yourself:

How might the new person be feeling?
How could you show understanding?

What might make someone new feel accepted?

Discuss:

If you or someone else is feeling worried or disrespected, who can you ask for help?

In groups, discuss one of the values prompts then share your thoughts with the class.

Respect

What does being respectful look like? How does respect feel?

Rule of law

What rules do you follow at your school? How can rules help keep us safe?

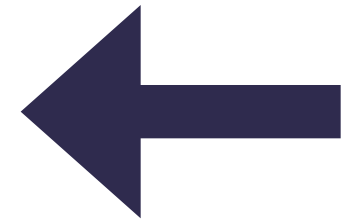
Democracy

Do pupils take part in making decisions about what happens at your school? How?

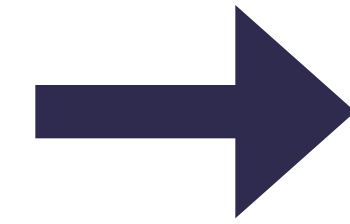
Liberty

What does freedom mean to you? Do you and your classmates agree on everything?





Moving debate: agree or disagree?



Show you agree
Move to this side

Why?

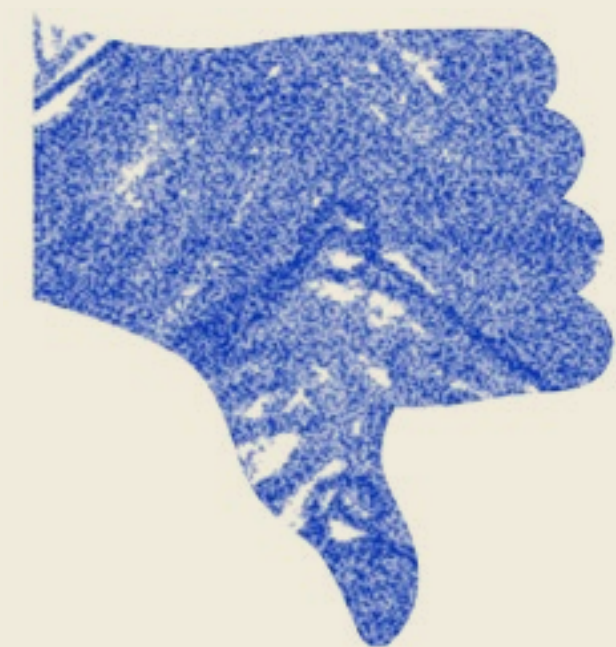
If someone is being called names, it's best to ignore it.

Helping to look after our school building helps us all.

My friends should be the same as me.

I'm curious about different cultures and traditions.

No one should be left out when we play.



Show you disagree
Move to this side

Why not?

Your Artist Brief

What to create:

Your own artwork that celebrates the diversity of your school community.

Why we're making art together:

Because everyone deserves to feel welcome and respected

Art processes we'll use:

Mind maps, rubbings, print making, font design, line drawing, pattern design, self-portrait sketch, writing

Who we'll learn from:

Nomad Clan, Billy Colours and Carrie Reichardt

Be inspired by:

Heart of Glass collaborate with artists and communities to make public art. They write artist briefs for all their art projects. Artist briefs are guidelines that help everyone to understand the shared end goal.

Representing Our School



Strong Women by Carrie Reichardt and St Helens communities

Photo by Radka Dolinska

Plan Our Project

Together we will:

- Develop ideas
- Make choices
- Plan our artwork



Gathering Our Ideas

Plan Our Project

You will need 4 different colours

Step 1: Decide on a motto

Remember, our motto should remind us what we can do to make everyone feel safe and welcome. Choose a colour and write your motto in the centre of the page.

Step 2: Decide on your values

Values are important words that guide how we act and behave. Choose a second colour and add them to your mind map.

Step 3: Decide on your feelings

Choose a third colour. Add to your mind map words that describe feelings of safety and belonging.

Step 4: Decide on your actions

Choose a fourth colour. Add to your mind map words that describe things that you do to act out your school values.



Gathering Our Ideas

Plan Our Project

Artists use colours to create mood and show feelings.
What colours match your words? Are they:

- Black / white or different shades
- Cool / warm
- Gentle / bold
- Peaceful / energetic
- Light / dark

Add a colour palette to your mind map.



Make a Collaborative Wall Rubbing

Together we will:

- Explore texture
- Represent mood
- Develop a background



Create a Textured Background

Make a Wall Rubbing

You will need:



Roll of paper



Crayons



Strong duct tape

1. Select wax crayons to match your 'mind map' colours.
2. Find a wall with an interesting texture. Unroll and tape some paper to the wall. You'll need space for everyone to work side-by-side.
3. Decide which colours will go where. Each artist takes their place with a crayon.
4. Use smooth, sideways strokes to capture the texture evenly.

Top tip:

Peel any paper off your crayons so you can use the side to create smoother, more even rubbings.



Plan Your Display

Bring your wall art back inside.

Your teacher will tell you where your display will go.

Cut your wall art background to fit the display space.

Make a Wall Rubbing



Designing Our Font

Together we will:

- Consider shape and size
- Create different effects with lines
- Draw interesting patterns



Learning From Artists

Designing Our Font

Carrie Reichardt is an internationally recognised mosaic artist.

- Carrie works on large scale public murals globally.
- Carrie uses a variety of tile-making and printing techniques to create her artworks. She famously covered her entire house in mosaics.
- Carrie uses her skills to help different communities to represent themselves through art.
- She also makes art to campaign and protest about things that matter to her.
- Public Art has been dominated by men. The artists we have looked at today are working to make sure more diverse groups of people have the chance to make public art.



Carrie Reichardt with the Strong Women artwork in Parr, St Helens
Photo by Radka Dolinska

Learning From Artists

Designing Our Font

Carrie says about her art:

“I’ve been working in ceramics for over 25 years. I specialise in printing on tiles and creating a form of ceramic collage.”

“My art invites people to pay attention to their own history. I work with communities to make their own individual pieces with printed imagery on ceramic tiles. I work with them to make ceramic mosaics that are full of information.”

“It’s about harnessing the power of art to bring people together to create things that they can be proud of.”



Close up of the Strong Women artwork in St Helens
Photo by Interference Art

Learning From Artists

Designing Our Font

Carrie says about her art:

“I think work in museums and galleries is intimidating. It’s really important having culture out on the streets for everyone to see, for everyone to form an opinion of... Hopefully to inspire and make people feel better about themselves.”

“It’s kind of like the idea of taking what’s in a library and putting it out onto the streets... Displaying lots of information that I hope is going to be positive and informative, and encourage people to have an understanding of where they come from.”



Close up of the Strong Women artwork in St Helens
Photo by Interference Art

Making Your Letter

Designing Our Font

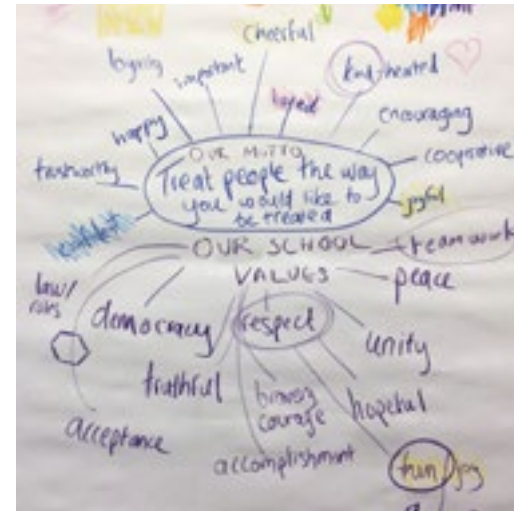
You will need:



Black A5 paper



White pencils

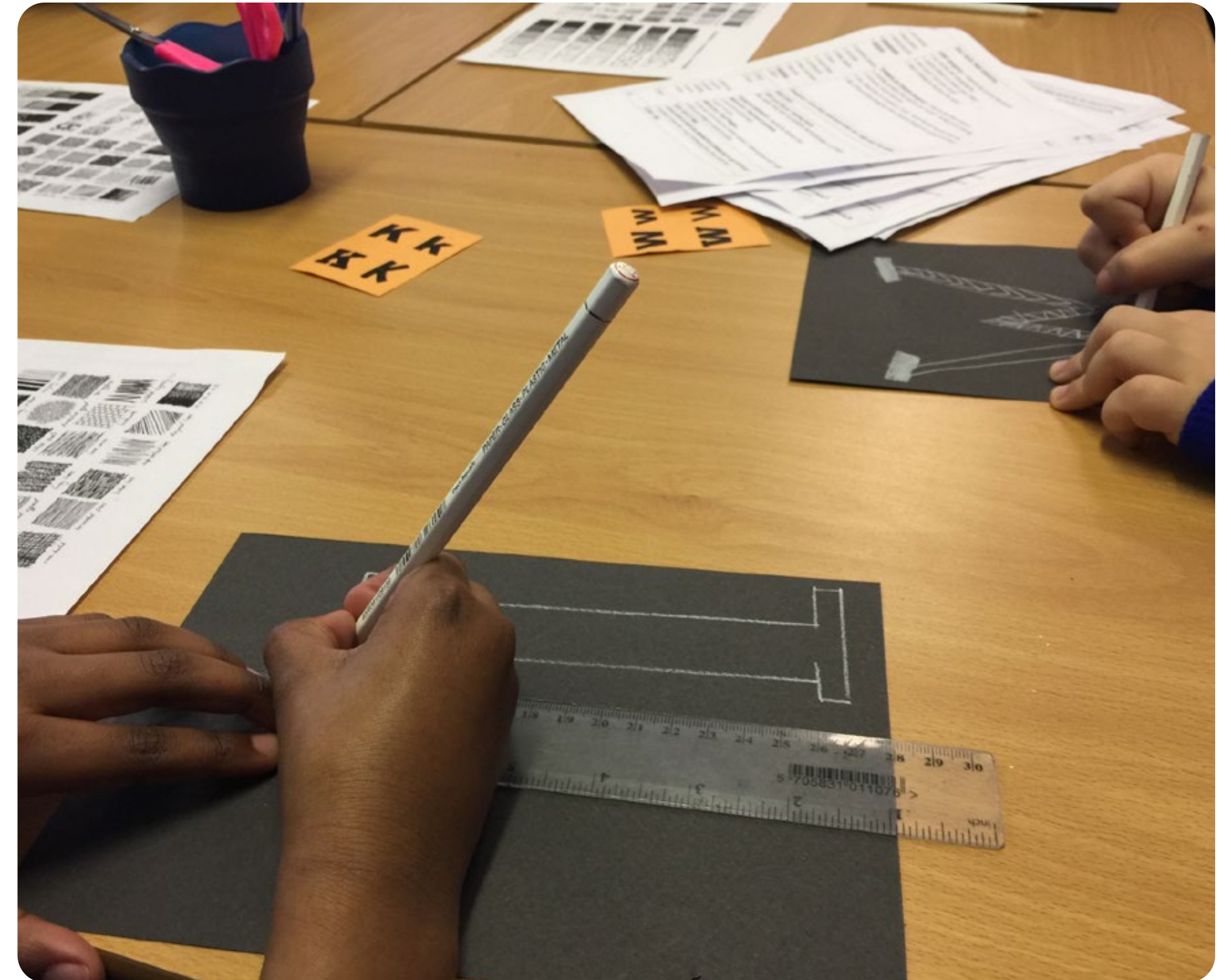


Mind map words

Draw the outline of one letter each, using a white pencil on black paper.

Top tip:

Make your letter as big as the paper by drawing to the edges.



Making Your Letter

Designing Our Font

You will need:



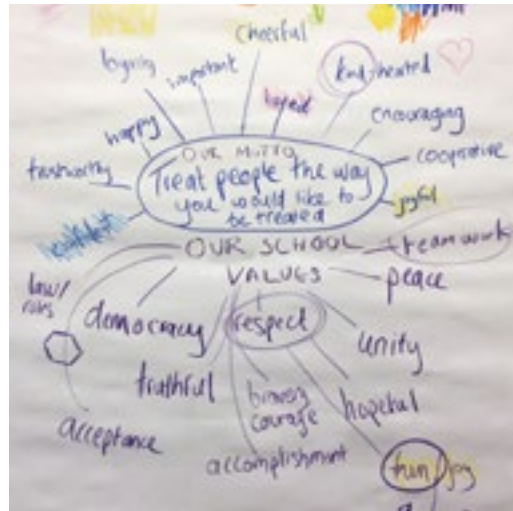
Letters



White pencils



Scissors



Mind map words

Work in small teams to each create a letter that when put together will spell out your chosen value. Design a pattern to fill your letter.

Will your pattern be...



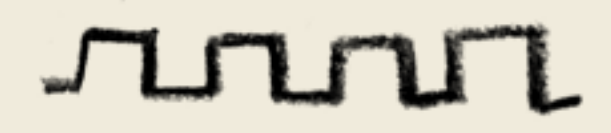
Wavy motion



‘Take care’ zigzag



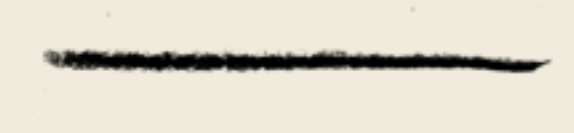
Soft spiral



Strong castle



Energetic power



Strong and straight



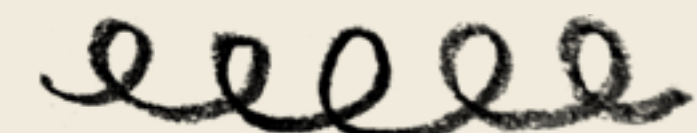
Connecting dash/dot



Playful and bumpy



Gentle/dreamy clouds



Bouncy/joyful loops



Naturally growing

Or something else?

Creating Your Display

Designing Our Font

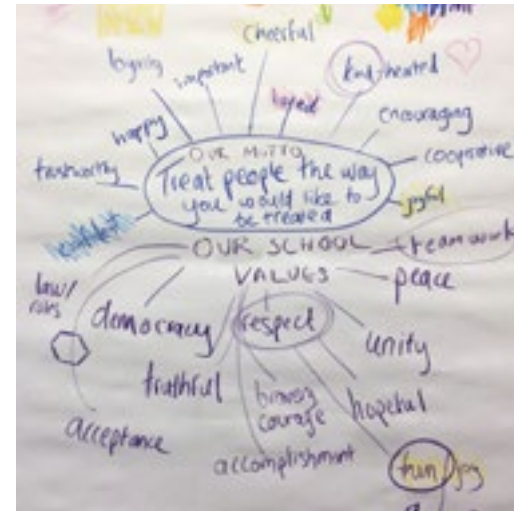
You will need:



Letters



Scissors



Mind map words

Carefully cut out your letters and assemble the words.

Need any changes?

Top tip:

If you need a hole in your letter, gently pinch the centre to make a crease and cut from the centre outwards.



Stand-out Shapes

Together we will:

- Make a printing plate
- Create a shape stamp
- Print a display border



Learning From Artists

Stand-out Shapes

Alex Godwin AKA Billy Colours is a visual artist

- 'Billy' is Alex's painting name - a nickname picked up along the way.
- 'Colours' was added to acknowledge her love of bright and vibrant palettes.
- Billy draws, paints, and uses apps and computer software to make art.
- Her work is inspired by real life.
- Billy uses art to imagine what a better society could look like.



Billy Colours creating the Grow Up mural in St Helens
Photo by Radka Dolinska

Learning From Artists

Stand-out Shapes

Billy says about her art:

“Communities should have an input into art that is being made for their area.”

“Public art brings people together and allows people to represent themselves. It’s important that people are able to see themselves reflected in the art on their streets.”

“I make large scale art in public spaces because it brightens up places and makes people feel proud of their community.”



Grow Up by Billy Colours with Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School

Photo by Radka Dolinska

Learning From Artists

Stand-out Shapes

Billy says about her art:

“I noticed that in places like Mexico people paint their houses and public buildings in all kinds of bright and happy colours. I wanted to bring a little of that back home. It can be so dull and grey in England!”

“I am also inspired by painters such as Picasso and Magritte - the colour palette these painters use is clearly inspired by their environment.”

“I use spray paints and emulsion mostly. I plan out my work using doodle grids.”

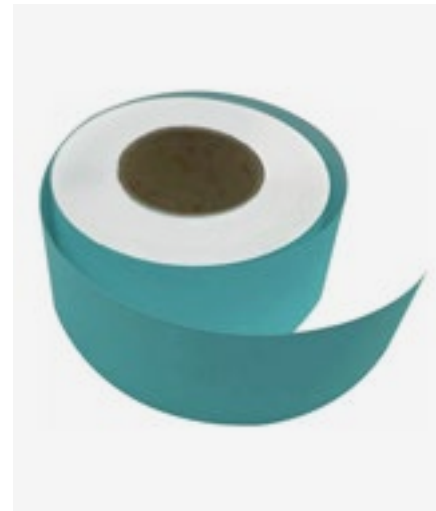


Grow Up by Billy Colours with Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School
Photo by Radka Dolinska

Making Your Own Printing Plate

Stand-out Shapes

You will need:



Display
border roll



Thick
Cardboard



Pencil



Scissors



Double-sided
tape

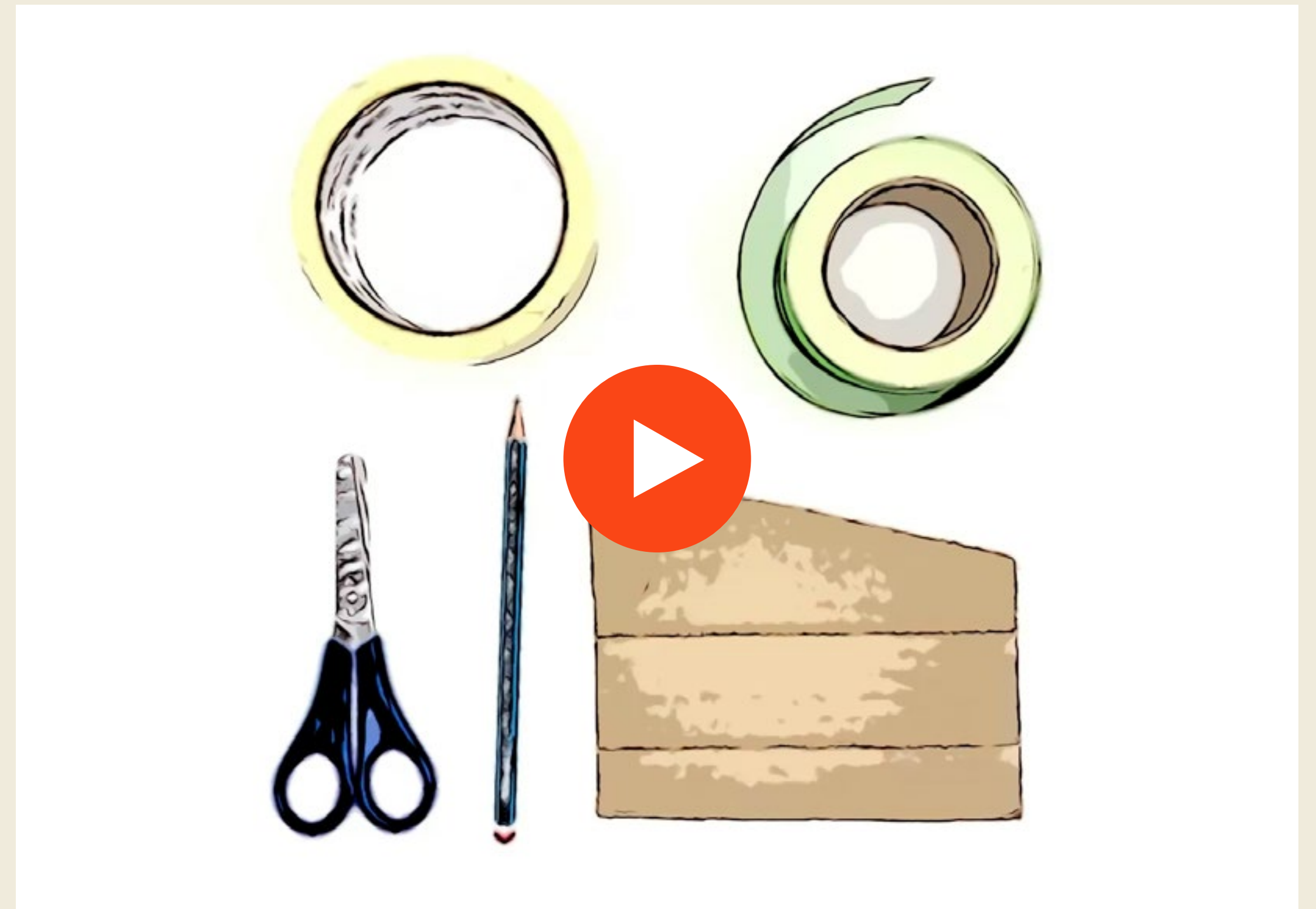
Top tips:

Create a T-shaped handle using cardboard, following the grain to make bending easier.

Measure your 'plate' to make it no wider than the border roll you will print on.



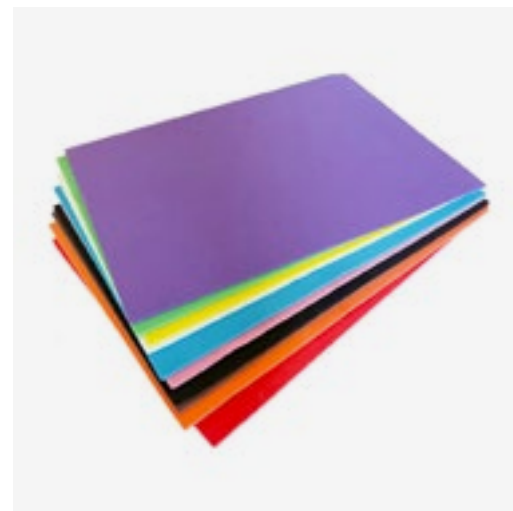
Watch video:



Creating Your Stamp

Stand-out Shapes

You will need:



Craft foam



Pencil



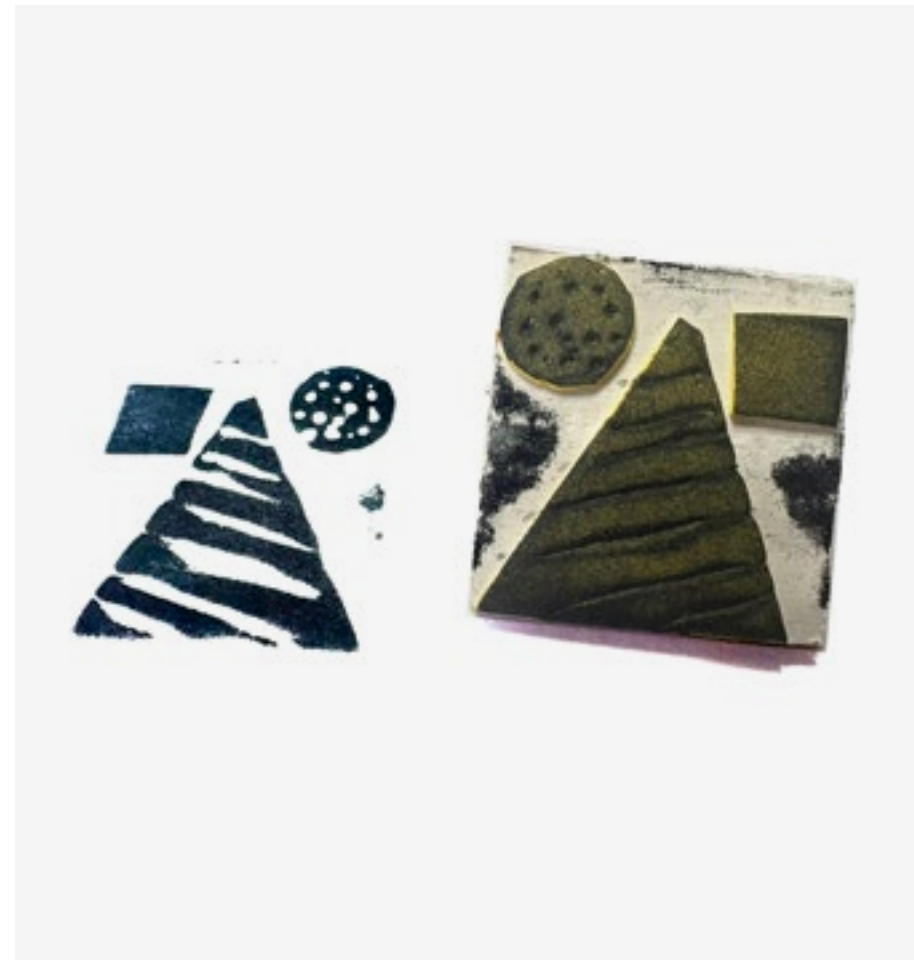
Scissors



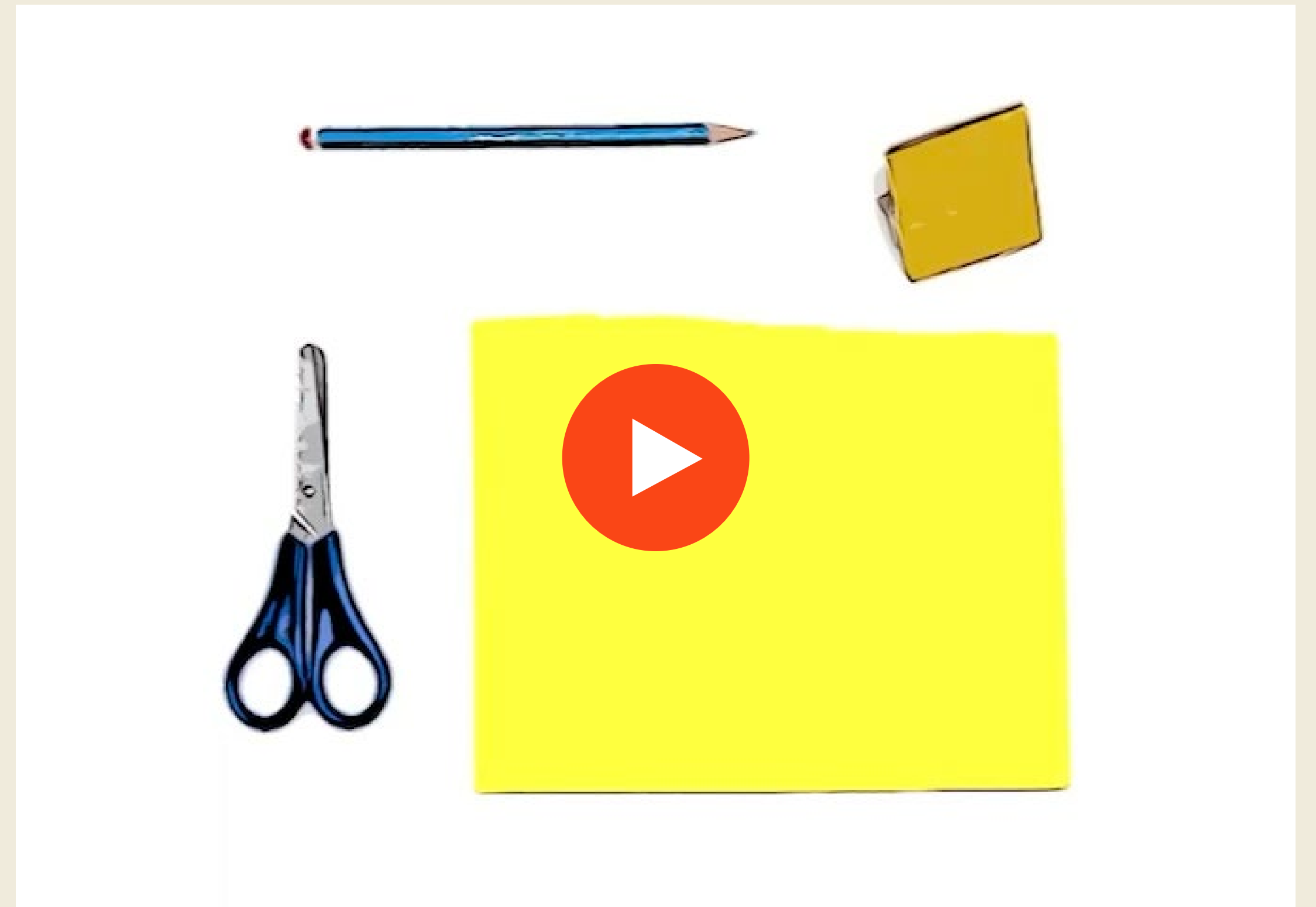
Printing plate

Top tips:

Once complete, dab your stamp onto a piece of old fabric to remove excess stickiness. The printing plate is small so keep it simple – too much pencil detail won't show when stamped. Pencil lines will be indented, so won't hold ink. Lines will print as white.



Watch video:



Printing Your Display Border

Stand-out Shapes

You will need:



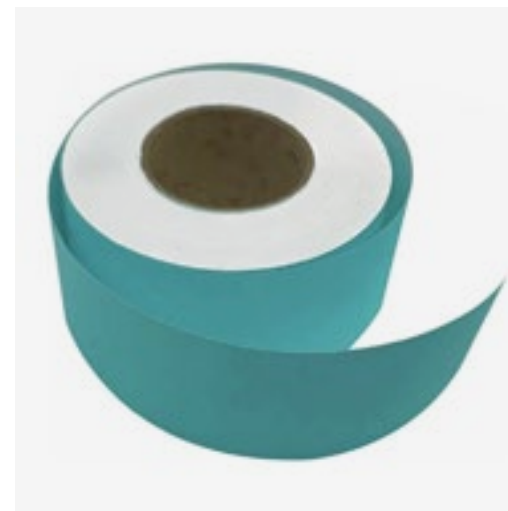
Your stamp



Ink pad



Practice paper



Display border roll

Top tips:

A rolling action side to side and top to bottom helps get a good ink cover and stamp print. Don't forget – indents won't print. Make sure the whole foam shape is covered with ink. If no colour shows through, this will give an even stamp.

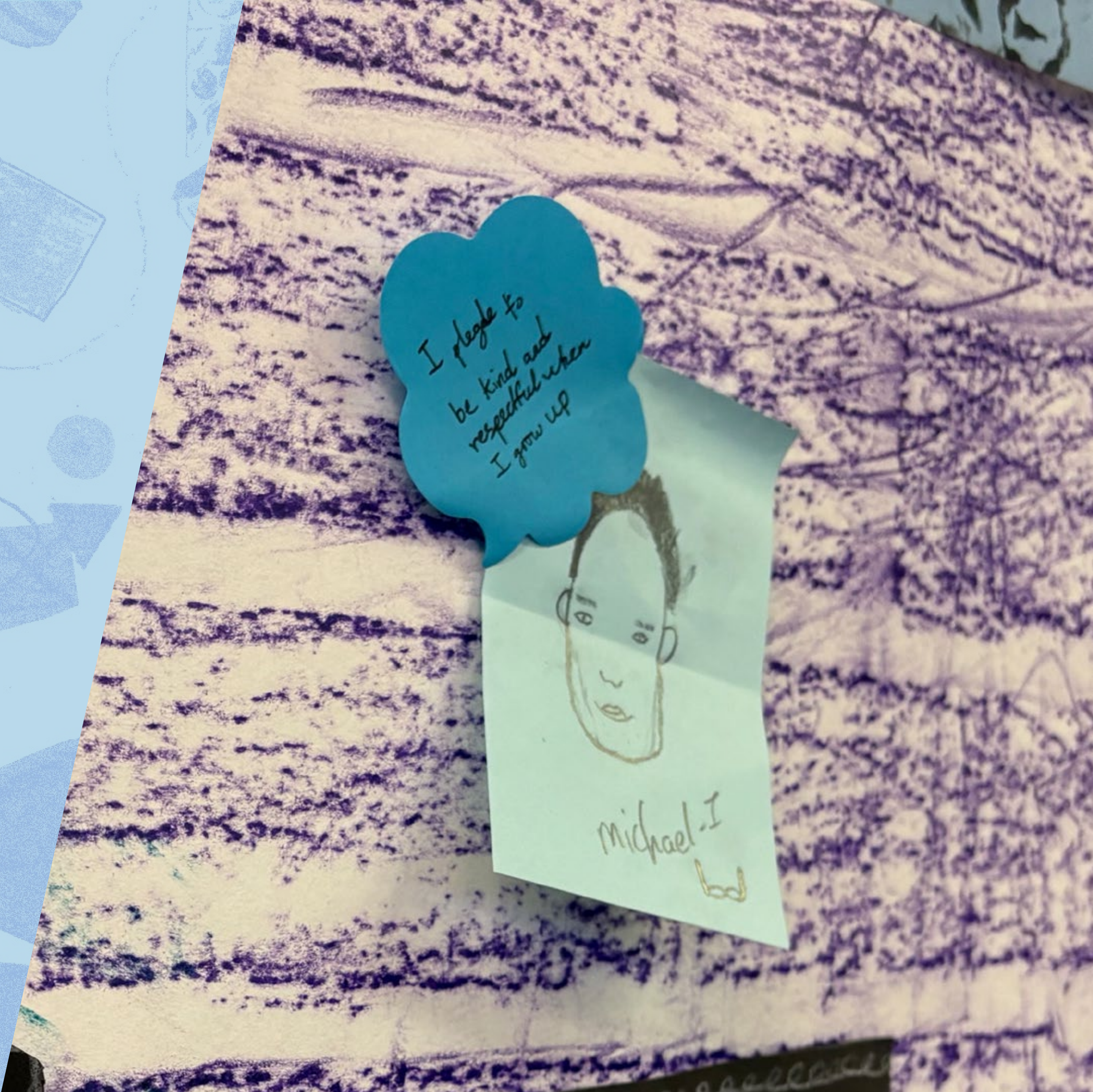
Watch video:



Portraits and Pledges

Together we will:

- Consider art activism
- Draw mini self-portraits
- Write a pledge



Drawing Your Self Portrait

Portraits and Pledges

You will need:



A6 paper



Pencil or pen



Mirror

Set a timer for 60 seconds. Look in your mirror. What do you notice about your eyes, nose, hair and mouth?

Put the mirror away. Set the timer for five minutes. Draw your self portrait on your paper.

Self portrait examples:



Write Your Pledge

Portraits and Pledges

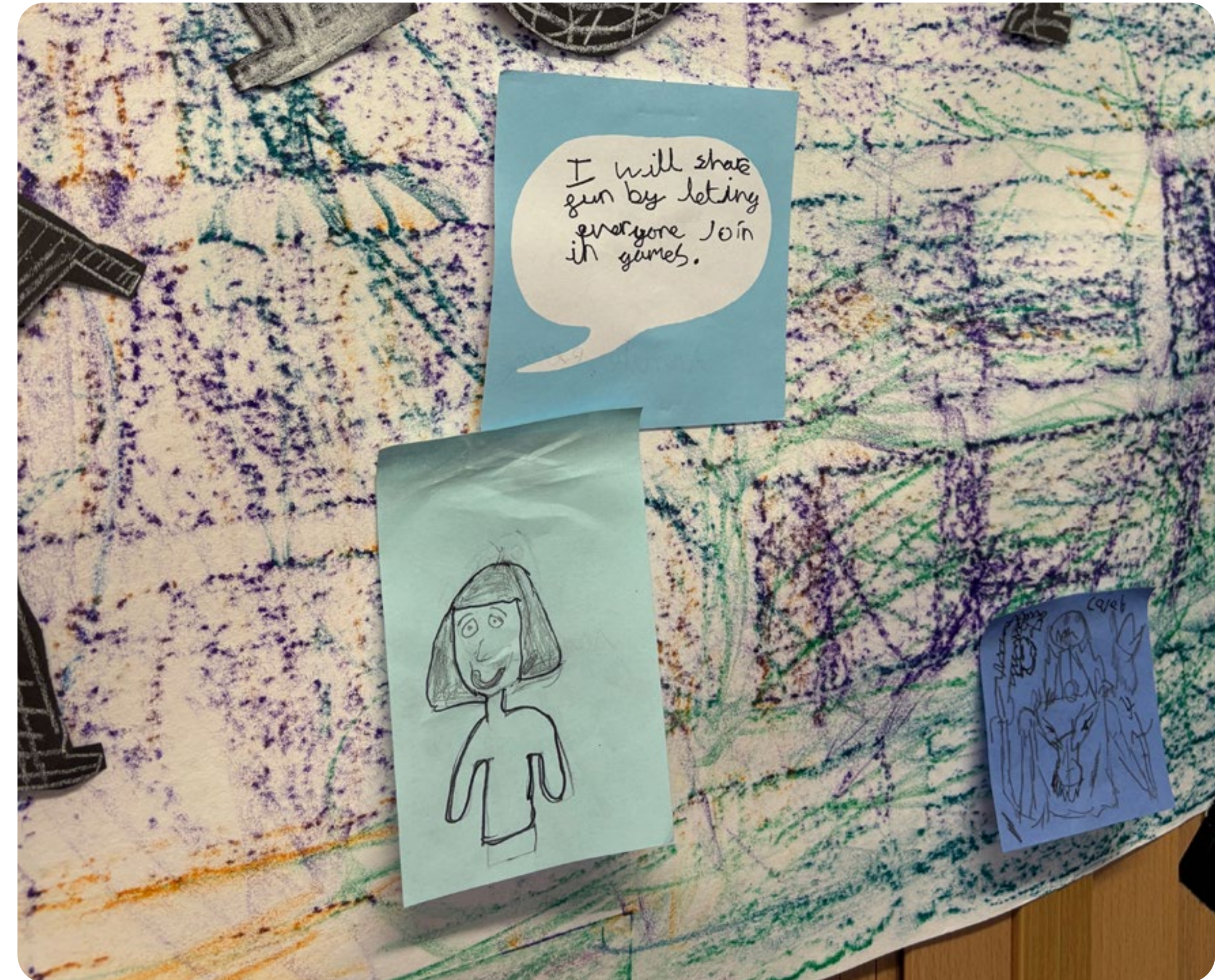
A pledge is a formal promise that you keep.

Ask yourself:

*How can I enact our values?
What can I do to contribute?*

Draw a speech bubble and write your pledge inside.

Pair your self-portrait and pledge for the display.



Install Your Artwork

Consider how to arrange your values, portraits and pledges onto your wall art background.

Are the words spaced out and easy to read?

Can you include everyone's portrait?

Top tip:

Artists like to sign their work. Can you nominate someone to sign your artwork with your collective's name?

