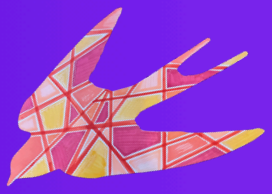
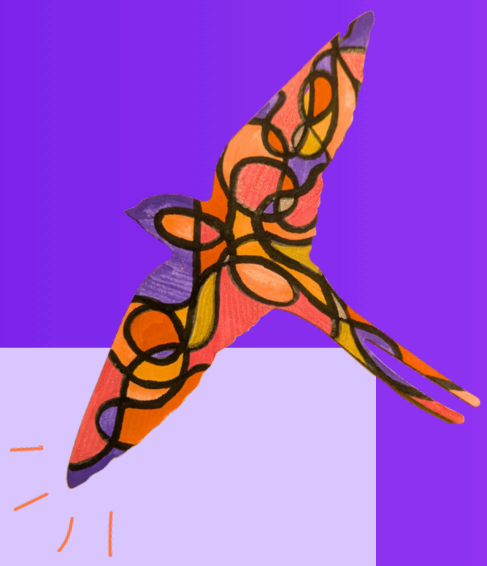
artswork

Charity No.800143







FLIGHT

Creative guide and swallow templates











Join young people across the country to create a powerful message of hope for the future

Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Funded by UK Government

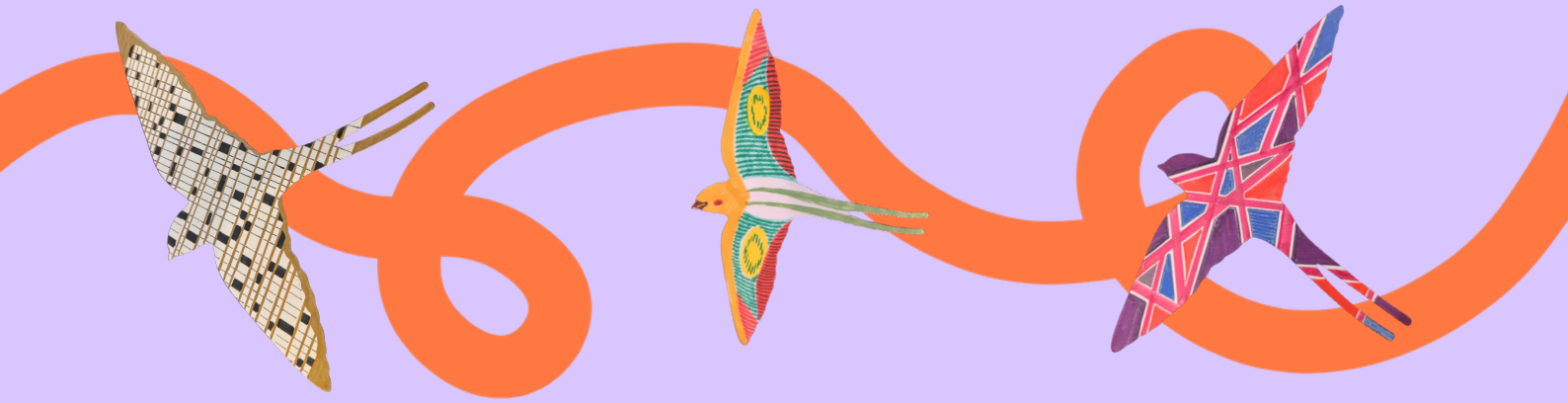
What is ‘FLIGHT’?

‘FLIGHT’ is the working title for Artswork’s new, large-scale artwork that will bring young voices from every community together in a resounding statement of hope for the future. And we’re inviting you to be part of it.

We’re collecting decorated swallows from young people across the country, each carrying a message of hope.

What will *your* swallow look like? What will it say?

Your swallow will join our massive flock displayed at The Mall Galleries, London, from 10–23 January 2027 as part of national charity, Artswork’s exhibition ‘**HOPE: Youth Voices for Change**’.



Currently, ‘FLIGHT’ is a working title, but we would like young people to name the final artwork.

Do **you** have an idea? Send it in with your decorated swallow.

Decorating your swallow

- Your swallow **must** be made from recycled cardboard (Amazon envelopes work well)
- You **must** use one of our templates (you can find these on pages 5, 6, and 7)

To decorate your swallow you can use:

- Metallic and neon paint markers
- Vivid colouring pencils
- Crayons
- Any acrylic, water, or alcohol markers (sharpies)
- Acrylic paint (in thin layers)
- Recycled or natural materials attached with a glue stick

Tip: Try to use vibrant colours and reflective materials to catch the bright gallery lights!

Decorate and write your message on both sides and colour every bit of white space. To write your message of hope, leave a space in the middle of your decorated swallow and use a fine tip pen (Posca, ballpoint, fineliner). You can add your first name if you like, but please **do not** include your surname.

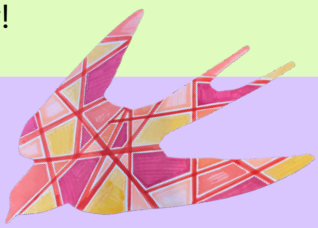
Please avoid using:

- Watercolours and watered down paint
- Felt tip pens or highlighters
- Chalk or pastels
- PVA glue





Tip: Try not to use too much paint, PVA or water on your bird. If it gets too wet, the cardboard can become soft, bend out of shape or take a long time to dry. Thin layers work best and help keep your bird strong and ready to fly!



We give these guides to make sure your swallows look their best in the gallery and are bold and easy to read.

On the next page, you'll find some questions to think about while decorating your swallow.

Writing your message of hope

As you decorate your swallow, take some time to think about the message you'd like to share.

You only need to write a short phrase, or even a single word. We want to know **what gives you hope for the future** and **what you think needs to happen to make the world a better place.**

Use the prompts below to help shape your message.

- What solutions do you want to see put into action to make the world a better place?
- What change would you like to see in your community?
- What gives you hope for the future?



Tips:

Fill in the blanks

You can use both sides of your swallow to write this two-part message:

[Side one] "I hope..._____.

[Side two] So I will..._____."

You can also try:

[Side one] "I hope..._____.

[Side two] So please..._____."

Decide who your message is for

Imagine a person or group reading your message. Who do you want to reach? It could be:

- Teachers
- Politicians and decision-makers
- A friend who's struggling
- Someone reading your words in 50 years
- A stranger visiting the exhibition
- Your younger self
- Other people your age
- The next generation

Please send your swallows by post by 7 December 2026 to:

Flight
Artswork Limited
PO Box 512
Southampton
SO30 9GN



About the exhibition

HOPE: Youth Voices for Change is a powerful exhibition created by young people from across England. Through art, film, sound, and creative storytelling, it shares their ideas, experiences, and solutions for some of the biggest challenges facing the world today.

It demonstrates that young people aren't waiting to be heard, they're already taking action.

This exhibition shows what happens when young people are given the chance to speak up, be creative, and make change happen.

There are four themes being explored in the exhibition:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Climate and environmental responsibility
- Community cohesion and belonging
- Youth unemployment, skills, and future opportunity



How will my swallow form part of a larger artwork?

Your swallow will be an integral part of a huge flock of swallows showcasing young people's hopes for the future. Visitors will be able to walk through the swallows and be immersed by the hopes that young people have for the future.

HOPE: Youth Voices for Change exists for young people to show the world that they bring insight, solutions, resilience, leadership, and imagination to the table.

