



# Orchard Meadow Primary School

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

September 2025

The Art Nest team has become an indispensable part of the Orchard Meadow School community, delivering a therapeutic provision that has had a transformative impact on the lives of children and families across the Blackbird Leys area. Over recent years, their work has provided a safe, nurturing, and creative space where children can express themselves freely, process complex emotions, and receive vital mental health support in a non-judgemental and secure environment.

This provision is not only therapeutic in nature but deeply embedded in the school's pastoral and safeguarding framework. The design of the Art Nest programme, centred around trust, creativity, and emotional safety, often enables children to disclose worries, anxieties, and sometimes safeguarding concerns that might otherwise remain hidden. These disclosures are handled with sensitivity and professionalism, allowing the school to respond swiftly and appropriately, extending support to both the child and their family. In this way, Art Nest acts as a crucial early intervention mechanism, helping to identify and address issues before they escalate.

The artistic outcomes produced through the programme are consistently of high quality, each piece a tangible reflection of the child's journey, voice, and inner world. These are not temporary creations; they are meaningful, lasting artefacts that hold emotional and aesthetic value long after their completion. Whether displayed in the school, taken home, or used as part of therapeutic reflection, these artworks serve as powerful reminders of resilience, growth, and healing.

Beyond the individual impact, the Art Nest team contributes significantly to the wider school culture. Their presence fosters a sense of calm, creativity, and emotional literacy throughout the school. Staff regularly comment on the positive ripple effect the provision has on behaviour, engagement, and wellbeing. The team works collaboratively with teachers, support staff, and leadership, ensuring that their work complements and enhances the school's broader educational and pastoral aims.

We hugely value the Art Nest team and fully consider them an integral part of our Orchard Meadow School family. Their compassion, skill, and unwavering commitment to our children and community have made a lasting difference. In a time when mental health support is more crucial than ever, Art Nest stands out as a beacon of hope, healing, and creativity. We are proud to work alongside them and deeply grateful for the life-changing impact they continue to deliver.



*Collaborative artwork created by children attending an after-school club led and run by the Art Nest Team. This artwork is displayed in the school's Family Community Room.*

Claire Ferens,

Regional Director and Executive Principal.