



A.P.P.L.E Annual Report

Jan – Dec 2025



Contents

Chair's Report

The Programme

The Benefits

The Stats

The Summery

Chair's Report

Welcome to A.P.P.L.E.'s 2025 Annual Report.

Over the past year A.P.P.L.E.'s program has offered children and young people opportunities to develop confidence, resilience, and social skills through participation in diverse activities, fostering personal growth and mental wellbeing.

A.P.P.L.E. also supports families facing difficulties with projects such as the food bank service and inclusive community events.

Through our year long programme of –

Food Programme & Eating Together
Art & Creative Projects
Sport & Outdoor Play
Youth
and Family Support

we aim to build -

Confidence and resilience: The program helps participants overcome fears and build self-belief, contributing to improved mental health and academic success.

Enhanced social skills: Young people report increased social interaction and confidence, with participants noting improved ability to socialise and meet new people.

Empowerment through choice: Children and young people are encouraged to try new challenges at their own pace in a supportive atmosphere, which promotes success and confidence.

Cooking and creative skills development: Activities such as cooking clubs provide practical skills and fun experiences, enhancing participants' independence and creativity.

Food bank support: A weekly food bank, supported by City Harvest, serves 25 registered families, providing essential food supplies to those in need.

Community engagement and events: A.P.P.L.E organises inclusive events like carnivals, festivals, and trips, which are especially valuable for families experiencing financial hardships, ensuring access to enriching experiences.

Adapting to diverse needs: The program balances different age groups' needs by providing age and ability related activities for younger children and establishing a dedicated youth group to ensure effective support.

Growing, cooking and eating together

Our food projects address all aspects related to food - shopping, budgeting, cooking, healthy food compared with processed food, eating together and hospitality. The number of young people forming the Cook Teams at open access sessions has increased. Space in the kitchen has made all aspects of cooking so much easier, from teaching techniques to teenagers hanging out over hot chocolate.



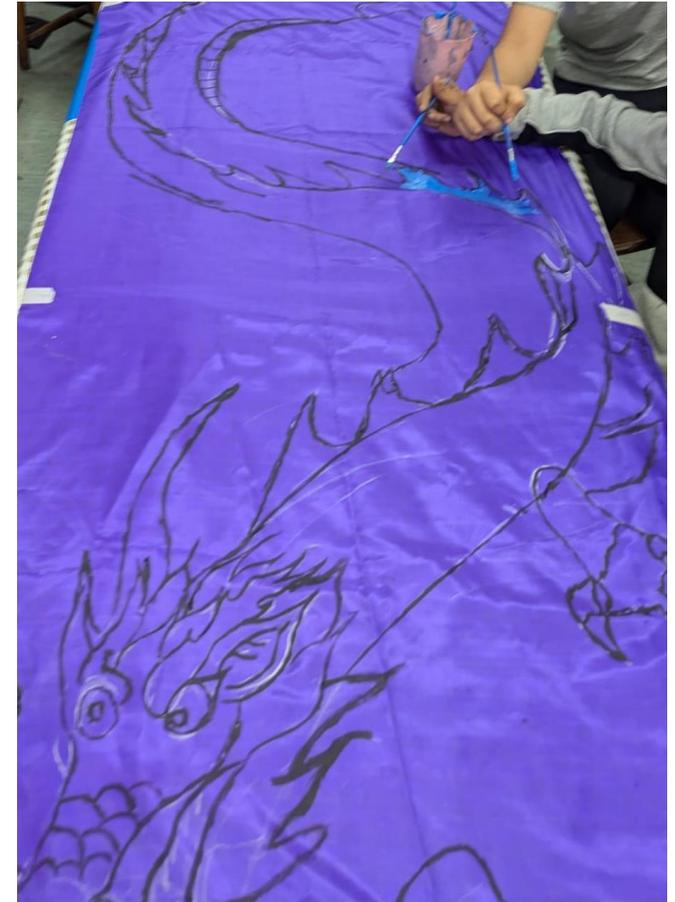
Art and Creativity

A.P.P.L.E.'s longest running project is the After School Art Club at John Perryn Primary School. Art Club first started as a lunch time activity club in 1998. Some 27 years later we are still there. This year's projects have included Chinese lanterns, bird hand puppets, printed banners and more.

At the open access art sessions on Saturdays and school holidays, the children and young people have worked on creating colourful banners for outside the ARTBLOCK. Projects have included, Roman helmets, and swords, windmills.

We have been involved in 4 school projects, for example, making light boxes with Year 4 at John Perryn.

Art and creative projects offer the children and young people a way to try something new in a relaxed and fun setting where everyone can have a go, even if you think 'I can't draw'



Sport and Outdoor Play

A.P.P.L.E is all about making outdoor sports and games fun and inclusive for young people. The activities focus on boosting mental and physical health, confidence, social skills, and fitness. Open access helps tackle barriers like cost and lack of interest in organised sports. Activities range from casual play with bikes and skipping ropes to organised sports and challenges. The goal is to build resilience and encourage a lifelong love for physical activity.

This summer our aim to engage all our children and young people in some sort of physical activity has been helped by coach J'don and his team and lots the trips, including, kayaking, wall climbing, Go Ape, the February Residential brrrrrr!



The

Youth

This past year has seen an increase in the number of young people aged 12 – 18 attending A.P.P.L.E sessions. The focus on getting our youth group out and about has been successful in broadening their experiences, engaging in challenging physical activities, bonding as a group, and having fun.

The support they offer each other has helped with issues of anxiety, bereavement and difficulties with home and school problems.

Our young people take an active role in researching, planning, and organising trips.

Jack Petchey awards and AAA awards help motivate our young people to achieve, especially those who find school challenging.



Families, Events and Trips

23rd September 2025

W, mother of 5, Syrian refugee: "A.P.P.L.E. is a great place for children from all different places and different ages. You can meet so many wonderful people here, and the older children are very patient with the younger children. A.P.P.L.E. has offered my children many opportunities which they wouldn't otherwise have had, such as the trips. The staff here are extremely kind, patient and understanding."

The programme at A.P.P.L.E is all about providing resources that can benefit families, from Tuesday Food Bank to access to trips and events, from somewhere for teenagers to hang out to bikes for the younger children to play on.



The most important skills that A.P.P.L.E helps provide through the programme are -confidence and resilience. The ability to address personal issues, seek and give help, stand in good stead throughout life.

28th February 2025

Teagan, 17 years: I started attending apple at 7 years old. Ever since then I have been a regular attendee. The staff at A.P.P.L.E., have been people I can confide in regularly. A.P.P.L.E. has helped me with my social and school problems. I am happy here, and, since I have introduced some of my other friends to A.P.P.L.E. it has become an even better place that I can come to.

Khaled, 14 years: I come to A.P.P.L.E. for the staff and when I come here I feel safe, and I always have someone I can talk to. It's always fun here and we laugh a lot. I learnt lots of new skills like cooking and chess. There's many new activities and events I can do here, that we can enjoy, like quizzes, movies, games.

Kate, 16 years: I have been at A.P.P.L.E. for the past 4 years, it has always been a safe and comforting space in which the staff have helped me develop new skills. For the entire time here, we have gone on many trips which allows us teens coming here to have new experiences and also make new friends along the way. The staff here have also helped me through many personal struggles and I always feel like I can come here in a time of need.

Ellie, 17 years: I have been coming to A.P.P.L.E. since I was younger and it always has been a fun, enjoyable and a safe place to be. It has allowed me to work on my communication and confidence skills. The staff are always supportive and caring, and have helped me through my personal struggles.

Leah, 15 years: I first came to apple as I got introduced by an old friend and I would have never realised that I would come to apple every day that it's open. Ever since I started coming properly I got very close to the staff and now they mean so much to me. Every trip I get to go on I find it so fun, and I really cherish all the people here. I've made so many good friends here that I could now never imagine a world without. I've made many great memories. The best staff member in my opinion is Abi because she's so amazing. She is so welcoming to everyone that comes to A.P.P.L.E. and she really means a lot to me.

Molly, 14 years: I like coming to A.P.P.L.E. because the staff are really nice. They are fun and listen to me. I sometimes struggle at school, and really don't like it. Nella really helps me. She gives me advice on how to manage it, like talking to a teacher I trust or taking time out. A.P.P.L.E. gives me the opportunity to try new activities, for example I recently went on the residential and did archery which I really enjoyed.

14th April 2025

Mohammed, 13 years: I love A.P.P.L.E. because it inspires the youth to step outside of their comfort zones and try new things. My overall experience in A.P.P.L.E. helped me to develop my communication skills.

18th October 2025

Nali, 13 years: I like coming to A.P.P.L.E. because I can meet my friends and also talk to new people. I also like the activities and games we play.

Bentley, 13 years: A.P.P.L.E. is really fun. I get to meet new people and I really enjoy the trips because they're fun and give me the chance to try new things. My favourite was kayaking and Go Ape.

Yamen, 12 years: I like playing table tennis here, meeting my friends and the trips. Kayaking was my favourite . I learnt how to swim and I'm not scared of the water anymore

2025 Stats (so far)

Total number of sessions: 174
35 Tuesday Art Club/Food Bank
23 John Perryn Art Club
25 East Acton Cooking Club
23 Friday Youth Night
25 Saturday Sessions
42 School Holiday Sessions

218 total attended at least 3 times this year
Males: 117 / Females: 101
Under 7's: 46 (21%)
8-11 years: 72 (33%)
12-15 years: 56 (26%)
16-17 years: 44 (20%)

Ethnicities:

Arab – 71 (32%)/ Asian – 15 (7%)/ Black – 43 (20%)/ Mixed – 40 (18%)/ Other – 12 (6%)
White – 37 (17%)

The **A.P.P.L.E. Achievement Awards** (AAA's) measure tasks accomplished in various areas such as leadership, cooking, art, community involvement, and personal development. These awards are practical and provide valuable recognition for children and young people who may struggle academically, encouraging them to excel in other areas.

3 Jack Petchey Awards

52 AAAs of which:

Art x17/ Camping x13/ Youth Leadership x2/ Cooking x19/ Member Recognition x1

There have also been 116 youth workdays by 70 individuals



Summary

We know how valuable the activities of A.P.P.L.E. are to the community around the park. Many families in the area have minimal home space and struggle with limited financial means to provide stimulating activities outside the home on any sort of regular basis. A.P.P.L.E. continues to provide a safe space, close to home where children and young people can thrive, engage in activities completely unrelated to school or family life. We aim to develop their confidence in their own abilities and allow them to expand their outlook and boundaries.

This past year has been very busy with many trips including a residential weekend at Woodrow High House in February, a trip to London Zoo (thanks to the generosity of John Lyons Charity), climbing under the Westway, kayaking on the Thames and many other inspiring trips.

Abigail Leitao has settled brilliantly in her role as General Manager and Sharonjot Mahi has now been with A.P.P.L.E over a year. It is wonderful to see them both thriving in their new posts.

A.P.P.L.E. is in a good financial position although as ever we will need to do some serious fundraising again in the coming year.

Finally on behalf of A.P.P.L.E I would like to say a great big thank you to all those who have put so much into the organisation over this past year: all the charities providing us with vital funds, our local schools helping us to provide help where we can, City Harvest for providing us with our food and of course our wonderful staff, Abbie, Sam and Jake, Sharonjot, Nella and Kai as well as Neville (keeping the garden up to scratch) and all the other supporting staff as well as everyone else who helps to keep A.P.P.L.E going so well.

David Thaddeus - Chair



APPENDIX 1 - A.P.P.L.E. STAFF, COMMITTEE AND TRUSTEES

A.P.P.L.E. is a registered constituted charity with a Management Committee of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and six trustees.

There is a core support group of staff. A.P.P.L.E. has a large group of volunteers ranging from regulars to those who come and help for specific projects, e.g. carnivals.

Committee:

Chair: David Thaddeus **Secretary:** Sharon Duce **Treasurer:** Tessa Swithinbank

Trustees: Deborah Catesby, Amanda Mason, Edward Parkinson, Rachel Pepper, Dilys Tisshaw, Kit Harington, Faisa Sharif, Carise Norman

Project Coordinator & Co-founder - Vicki Barker

General Manager– Abigail Leitao

On-site Project Manager - Sam Barker

On-site Building Manager – Jake Barker

On-site Safeguarding Officer – Nella Novy Johnson

Off-site Admin support - Jessica Mason, Sheila Farrell

Lead Youth and Project Workers

Jake Barker

Nella Johnson

Sam Barker

Abigail Leitao

Project Staff

Kai Thomas Lewis- lead for Sport and Outside Play

Sharonjot Madi - Sport/ Drama/ Youth

Gardener

Neville Capil

Kitchen maintenance

Barabara Wachowska

Visiting specialists

Laura Barker - Chef

D'jon Campbell -Sports Coach

APPENDIX 2 - FUNDING ORGANISATIONS AND CONTACT LINKS

Our work this year has been supported by:



CONTACT LINKS - A.P.P.L.E. has connections with many local organisations.

- We work closely with 2 of our local our local primary schools. After School Art Club at John Perryn Primary School and Cooking Club with East Acton Primary School.
- Organisations we collaborate with, include: John Perryn Primary School, Derwentwater Primary School, East Acton Primary School, Artificiation, LB Ealing: Parks and Leisure, Children's Services, Youth & Connexions, Young Ealing Foundation, Ealing Skateboarding Association, London Youth, City Harvest, ActOne Cinema.
- We have received donations from Churchfield Community Association

APPENDIX 3 - A.P.P.L.E.'s Annual Accounts for the period 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

Accountants: Clarke and Co, Acorn House 33, Churchfield Road, Acton, W3 6AY

