

Health & Safety when using Pastels

Pastels are a dry medium and can produce a great deal of dust, which can cause respiratory irritation. This especially causes problems in enclosed areas such as classrooms and studios.

I have a number of students who suffer from asthma and respiratory problems.

This handout gives practical steps to reduce the amount of dust that is produced for your own health and your fellow students.

1/ **Do not blow** loose pastel. Hold the board vertically, tap the back of the board or tap it on the desk or gently use a fan brush. This is best done over a damp tissue to capture the dust.

2/ Work on newspaper to capture any loose dust and then when you have finished painting carefully fold the newspaper inwards and disposed of thoughtfully.

3/ Wipe up any excess dust with damp paper kitchen towel and dispose of thoughtfully.

4/ Use wet wipes to regularly clean your hands or wear gloves. It is not recommended that Latex gloves are used as these can cause problems.

Please Note: For those with persistent respiratory problems,

Thursday Afternoons will be a Pastel-Free Zone.