

# BOBBY BRITNELL Textile Artist and Designer

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## Health and Safety

### Introduction

It is right to be aware and concerned about the possible hazards and dangers connected with certain substances and equipment, when working in an textile/art room, but generally speaking all that is required is basic common sense and normal precautions. It is however necessary to alert me of any allergies or problems that you know you have so that alternative arrangements can be made. Otherwise if you follow the guidelines below you should experience problem free courses. Above all **BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS.**

### First Aid and Fire

Make sure you know where the first aid equipment is kept. Only basic first aid may be administered. I have been trained for 'Emergency Aid in the Workplace'  
Familiarise yourself with the position of fire exits, blankets and extinguishers. In the case of fire leave the room immediately. Do not stop to collect your belongings.

### General Issues

- Wear an overall or protective clothing to protect clothing.
- Roll up sleeves to protect clothes and to save smudging your work.
- Be sensible with food and/or drink in the workroom.
- Please clean all tools and equipment thoroughly.
- Return all tools, equipment and products to allocated place after use.
- Do not use craft utensils and equipment for domestic purposes.
- Use appropriate sinks in kitchen area for cleaning your tools.

### Electrical Equipment

Do not take any chances when working with electrical equipment. Please ensure that if you are bringing your own electrical equipment to courses that they are in perfect condition and working order and PAT tested. (Portable appliance testing). Always switch off and unplug electrical equipment when not in use.

<b>Irons</b>	Switch off after use, unless required by someone else. Place flat on iron rest. Check it is on the correct setting. Place ironing board and iron in safe position in room.
<b>Kettles</b>	Do not overfill. Switch off when not in use.
<b>Extension Leads</b>	Switch off at wall socket when not in use. Unplug appliances from extension leads when not in use.
<b>Sewing Machines</b>	When not in use switch off and unplug. Keep foot control in safe position.

## Non Electrical Equipment

This refers mainly to scissors and cutting tools.

<b>Scissors</b>	Keep scissors well sharpened. Close when not in use
<b>Craft Knives</b>	Always carry holding your hand over closed blades. Use knives with a retractable blade or with a blade cover. Retract blade or cover when not in use. Change blades before they become too blunt. Dispose of old blades safely. Use a self-healing cutting mat if possible for clean cut.
<b>Rotary Cutters</b>	Work on a firm table using a metal ruler or a safety ruler. Push cutter away from you. Also close the guard EVERY time it is put down. Have blades replaced as soon as they become blunt. Use with a self-healing cutting mat.

## Safe use of Materials and Products

Read labels on all products carefully before use. Be aware that some substances do not mix and can give off harmful vapours. Beware of fumes from glues, sprays and those from melting and bonding, as these can be equally as dangerous.

<b>Water</b>	Make certain, plugs and flexes are well away from water. Clear up any spillages immediately.
<b>Hot Liquid</b>	Have plenty of kitchen roll or old rags at hand for mopping up. Avoid carrying hot liquids about. (water, dyes, wax etc.) Carry pans of hot water, with oven glove or similar. Do not lean over to look in a pot of hot/boiling water. Boiling wax is particularly hazardous.
<b>Paints and Dyes</b>	Avoid breathing in fumes from heated liquids. Wear a mask. Protect work surfaces with plastic sheet and/or newspaper. Wear protective clothing, including gloves and masks if necessary. If mixing dyes with liquid always place dye into the liquid rather than the other way.
<b>Glues</b>	Work in ventilated room or near an open window. Protect work surfaces with plastic sheet and/or newspaper. Wear protective clothing. Spray glues should be used outside on a surface covered with newspaper, which should be discarded after use.
<b>Bleach</b>	Work in well-ventilated space or outside. Make sure bottle is correctly labelled and remains labelled. Replace cap immediately after use. Protect work surfaces.
<b>Sprays</b>	Wear protective clothing including gloves. The use of spray canisters is not encouraged. If they have to be used, work outside. A spray booth constructed from a large cardboard box is useful when using an airbrush, mouth diffuser or spray canisters.