

Creative Scotland and Education Scotland –Action Plan 2021-22

A Collaboration for Creativity



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



1 Introduction

The original 3-year agreement between Education Scotland and Creative Scotland was committed to in 2015 and subsequently extended by a year in 2018, and again in 2019. Over these five years, both organisations have continued to collaborate on initiatives, projects and actions whilst embracing a fast-changing education and arts landscape. More recently, the unforeseen impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has required a rapid rethinking of education provision and has had an adverse effect on children and young people's mental health and well-being.

Through the successes and challenges faced over this time, a consistent point of reference and connection between both organisations has been:

- Developing and sharing a vision for and understanding of the value of creativity across learning.
- Building capacity and expertise of learning and creative practitioners to support the development and use of creativity skills through learning and teaching

Our work over the past five years has had considerable impact against the outcomes both organisations sought to achieve and key successes can be summarised as follows:

1. A shared language and common understanding of creativity across Scotland.
2. Recognition of the value of creativity in both economic and personal contexts.
- 3 **How Good Is Our School? (HGIOS? v4)** is now explicit about the importance of creativity skills.
4. Support for the **Creative Learning Networks**, local authority-led initiatives that offer support in developing creative teaching, creative learning and creativity skills across all subjects throughout Scotland.
5. The publication of **Creative Scotland's review on Creative Learning** (Published February 2017).

At the centre of our work has been Scotland's **Creative Learning Plan** which sets out a shared vision for the importance of creativity in education. Both Education Scotland and Creative Scotland have been key partners in the **Creative Learning Steering Group** who have led on the implementation and delivery of the plan since 2013. Given the changes in the education and wider landscape the plan is considered by the partnership to be more important than ever, and its vision has been refreshed **to ensure the Scottish education system enables everyone to recognise, develop and apply their creativity to ensure they thrive in an increasingly complex and fast-changing world.**

Additionally, **A Culture Strategy for Scotland**, amongst other things, aims to place culture as a central consideration across all policy areas including education and open the potential of culture as a transformative opportunity across society. To support this, the strategy entrusts Education Scotland and Creative Scotland with helping to improve cultural experiences for learners of all ages.

Both organisations identify there is still a way to go to bring about further ambitious changes that need to be seen across the education system, in leadership, teaching and learning and in our curriculum offer to children and young people. There is also recognition of the significant impact of COVID-19 and the essential role of creativity across the education recovery agenda over the short, medium, and longer term. We therefore believe a continued 3-year agreement is vital to:

- Ensure creativity is playing a key role across the education recovery agenda.
- Create a secure framework with longer term planning horizons that accounts for change across the educational and wider landscapes.
- Enable strategic, effective and efficient working across both organisations.

2 Aligned Outcomes

Our outcomes are specific to our agreement but align to and build upon the successes of the Creative Learning Plan and are based on the change we aspire to within the 3-year scope of our agreement. We recognise that we cannot achieve these outcomes alone and that positive progress is contingent on many factors including wide partnership and stakeholder support. They do however provide a consistent point of focus for our joint working over the 3-year period.

Our aligned outcomes are:

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| <p>A. Learners' mental health and wellbeing is improved through creativity and arts experiences.</p> | <p>This is a very high priority as schools, settings and practitioners support children and young people through and beyond the pandemic.</p> <p>We will achieve this outcome through promoting and facilitating creative partnerships and creative learning experiences that will specifically support children and young people's health and wellbeing.</p> |
| <p>B. Learners are more confident and able to articulate their creativity skills and can apply them in all contexts.</p> | <p>Creativity is an essential skill; it was identified as one of 12 'meta-skills' by Skills Development Scotland in Skills 4.0 and is integral to the Developing the Young Workforce agenda, helping prepare young people for life, learning and work in all employment sectors, including the Creative Industries.</p> <p>We will achieve this outcome by continuing to highlight creativity as an essential skill, and ensuring that children and young people increasingly recognise, articulate, value and apply their creativity.</p> |
| <p>C. High quality cultural and expressive arts experiences are more widely accessible to all learners.</p> | <p>As demonstrated in A Culture Strategy for Scotland, arts and culture are key to Scotland's future prosperity. The crux of providing the best possible circumstances to ensure this ambition is realised lies in ensuring cultural and expressive arts experiences for Scotland's learners are of a high quality, and removing any barriers to access and participation.</p> <p>We will achieve this outcome through better connecting the arts and cultural sectors with education settings, collaborating on ways to inspire, empower and support children and young people to develop 'in' and 'through' arts and creativity across the curriculum.</p> |
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D. Learners are directly influencing more of their own creative learning and creative experiences.

The multitude of benefits that come from learners influencing their own creative learning and creative experiences are well described in the [National Youth Arts Advisory Group \(NYAAG\) Culture & Connection report](#).

Beyond making learning more engaging for the intended audience, incorporating learners in this way also builds their skill set, including developing their creativity and meta skills, and subsequently their ability to articulate and advocate the benefits of creativity. In addition, the inclusion of learner participation has been shown to be hugely beneficial to the development of learning opportunities, experiences and for those leading them.

We will achieve this outcome through inspiring school and system leaders and practitioners to effectively engage the participation of children and young people; and establishing a framework so that their views are influencing our partnership working.

E. Creative approaches are further embedded in curriculum design.

The changes brought about by lockdown and blended learning have led to a global appetite for curricular innovation.

We will achieve this outcome through supporting school leaders and practitioners to develop their skills in design thinking and to apply creative approaches to curriculum planning.

3 Programme of work 2020/21

To achieve our aligned outcomes, our key principles for working together will be:

- Sharing relevant knowledge, expertise and research.
- Developing and delivering joint programmes of work to support the delivery of the Creative Learning Plan and related outcomes.
- Maximising the potential of our combined resources.
- Influencing partnerships to support the delivery of the Creative Learning Plan and related outcomes.

| Action | Overview | Related Outcomes |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| <p>Creative Learning Steering Group</p> <p>Continuing to administer and facilitate the Quarterly Creative Learning Steering Group through meetings, workshops and national events.</p> | <p>Steering Group aim: For our actions to result in improved outcomes for children, young people and their families through engagement with creativity.</p> <p>The group consists of representatives from a wide range of national partner organisations and includes Creative Learning Network representation.</p> <p>The CL Steering Group meets every 10 weeks to bring expertise, experience, and knowledge to its remit, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the refreshed Creative Learning Plan • Ensuring strategic influence at a national and/or local level • Ensuring the Creative Learning Plan is aligned with wider policy context and national strategic objectives • Advising on the forward direction of the Creative Learning Plan, related national events, evaluation and programme activity • Responding to project evaluation and making recommendations for future actions • Providing strategic support to the National Creative Learning Network (NCLN) | <p>A, B, C, D & E</p> |

| Action | Overview | Related Outcomes |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| <p>Creative Wellbeing Fund</p> <p>Delivery of funding for a year-long project in which six groups of schools will work together with a creative partner to address learner wellbeing through creativity.</p> | <p>Pilot project for 2021-22.</p> <p>Delivery dates: October 2021 - June 2022</p> <p>Subsequent rounds will be subject to budget availability.</p> <p>With learners' mental health and wellbeing a top priority across Scotland, this fund has been created to offer six grants of £13,500 to support schools to take a creative approach to addressing wellbeing. One project will be supported in each Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC) area.</p> <p>Schools and funded early learning and childcare providers were invited to apply for this unique funding opportunity which is designed to help school partnership groups work together with a creative partner to find innovative solutions to increasing learner wellbeing and a wider sense of achievement.</p> <p>Education Scotland and Creative Scotland will host monthly online sessions for the project community to meet together discuss progress and share practice. Participants will take part in an end of project showcase event in June 2022. The project will take place in schools and communities across Scotland from October 2021 to June 2022.</p> | <p>A, B, C, D & E</p> |
| <p>National Creative Learning Network (NCLN)</p> <p>Continuing to administer and facilitate the National Creative Learning Network through meetings on a monthly basis, workshops and national events.</p> | <p>The National Creative Learning Network is comprised of local authority Creative Learning leads, who champion creativity, the arts and culture in schools and communities within the overarching context of Scotland's Curriculum and for the long-term benefits to learners.</p> <p>The NCLN builds capacity for creativity, working closely with leaders, practitioners, and learners, promoting the value of creativity skills, and making strong links between creativity and employability, and the power of creativity to help narrow the attainment gap.</p> <p>The NCLN meets monthly for professional development, networking and sharing effective practice. The group is involved in the planning and delivery of the annual national creativity event.</p> | <p>A, B, C, D & E</p> |

| Action | Overview | Related Outcomes |
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| <p>Creative Learning Network Fund</p> <p>Delivering fund offering grants of up to £7k per local authority to support Creative Learning Networks (CLNs) to implement Scotland's refreshed Creative Learning Plan.</p> | <p>In 2021-22 an eleventh year of Creative Learning Network (CLNs) funding was made available.</p> <p>Delivery dates: November 2021 – June 2022.</p> <p>Subsequent years of funding are subject to budget availability.</p> <p>CLNs have been a key delivery mechanism of Scotland's Creative Learning Plan since its publication in 2013. Education Scotland and Creative Scotland are committed to continuing their support of the development of CLNs in local authority areas across Scotland.</p> <p>Local authorities have been invited to submit proposals for an eleventh funding year. Fund criteria have been updated to reflect our refreshed partnership agreement and the new narratives resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>We now also ask the CLNs to look across Scotland's Culture Strategy and explore their role in helping to improve cultural experiences for learners of all ages.</p> | <p>A, B, C, D & E</p> |
| <p>Creativity Portal Development</p> <p>Developing the portal, including streamlining and updating current contact details, marketing, stakeholder consultation and implementing recommendations.</p> | <p>The Creativity Portal is a one-stop shop for teachers, community learning leaders and educators across lifelong learning. It brings together a wealth of creative online teaching tools, resources, inspiration and examples of effective practice.</p> <p>Development will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Streamlining and updating current contact details. 2 Marketing to develop profile of portal. 3 Spotlight pieces on arts organisations working in educational settings. 4 Stakeholder consultation. 5 Implementing recommendations from consultation. | <p>C</p> |

| Action | Overview | Related Outcomes |
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| <p>National Creativity Event</p> <p>Planning and delivery of annual partnership event from Scotland's Creative Learning Plan Partners and the National Creative Learning Network.</p> | <p>Delivery dates: week in late March 2022 TBC</p> <p>The annual national event takes a priority theme in education and provides a platform for leaders, practitioners, learners and carers to come together to explore it through the lens of creativity.</p> <p>Potential focus for 2022: Creativity in Wellbeing - a week of learning, professional dialogue and inspirational events for leaders, practitioners and learners at all levels and in all contexts.</p> | <p>A, B, C, D & E</p> |
| <p>Kaleidoscope</p> <p>Delivery of quarterly e-newsletter</p> | <p>Quarterly e-newsletter promoting news, resources, opportunities and events relating to creativity.</p> | <p>E</p> |

4 Reporting on Impact

Both organisations are committed to evidencing the added value and best use of resources achieved through partnership working. This will be achieved through aligning to a clear set of actions and key performance indicators to our outcomes and reviewing progress against these on an annual basis. An annual review process will also include an appraisal of the outcomes to ensure they remain relevant to current context and policy.

Further information

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