

Creative Wellbeing: A Creative Scotland & Education Scotland Partnership Fund

Creative Partner Brief

Purpose: To engage creative partners to work in partnership with schools and services to develop learners' creativity skills and improve wellbeing.

Intended Outcome: Learner wellbeing and wider sense of achievement is increased through creative learning across the curriculum and the development of creativity skills.

Aims:

- Support increased learner wellbeing and wider sense of achievement.
- Develop creativity skills in and through the arts.
- Build innovative ways of working through partnerships between educators, learners, creative partners, schools, and their communities.
- Share learning across Scotland for the benefit of all learners.

Context: With learners' mental health and wellbeing a top priority across Scotland, the Creative Wellbeing fund has been created by Education Scotland and Creative Scotland to offer six grants of **£12,000-15,000** to support schools in taking a creative approach to addressing wellbeing. One applicant school group will be selected in each Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC) area to devise a project in collaboration with a creative partner.

In June, schools and funded early learning and childcare providers were invited to apply for this unique funding opportunity which is designed to help partnership groups work together with a creative partner to find innovative solutions to increasing learner wellbeing and a wider sense of achievement.

Details: We are looking to match the successful school groups with a creative partner (individual or organisation) who can bring a fresh perspective, creative thinking and practice to the school group's challenges, to help them explore, plan, and implement change.

Could that be you or your organisation?

Challenges: will be unique to each learning setting, however examples could relate to:

- Increasing learner agency and sense of ownership over their learning.
- Improving learners' experience of transition from Early Years settings to Primary/ Primary to Secondary.
- Engaging families with the school and their child's learning so learners are better supported at home.
- Creating a school environment in which young people feel safe, empowered, and nurtured.
- Developing strong positive learner/teacher relationships.

To respond to the identified challenges, we are looking for creative partners who can demonstrate skills at engaging learners, understand the power of creativity and can articulate the importance of creativity skills to wellbeing. They will be able to demonstrate improvement in learner wellbeing through creativity and the development of creativity skills in collaboration with teachers and other partners.

Each project will involve a school's group which may include a variety of learning settings and partners. The six successful projects will be selected in September, and at that point we will know which schools and funded early learning and childcare providers will be involved and where in Scotland they are located.

Ambitions of the Fund

Through the Creative Wellbeing Fund, we are seeking to support schools and creative partners who:

- Are keen to innovate and look beyond the COVID-19 recovery phase.
- Are keen to develop and sustain partnerships and relationships over an extended timeframe.
- Prioritise listening, especially to children and young people, asking the right questions instead of attempting to solve perceived problems.
- Bring open-mindedness, curiosity, imagination and problem-solving to their involvement.
- Are willing to take risks and be open to reflecting on and changing things to support learner wellbeing.
- Commit to monthly online meetings with the wider project community (across six RICs) to share ideas and challenges and to learn from each other.
- Will work within relevant Local Authorities guidelines in relation to restrictions i.e., this could be a combination of digital and face to face contact' work

Creative Partner Criteria

Beyond the above, the Creative Partners we are seeking should also: -

- Be comfortable and experienced working with a wide range of ages and abilities.
- Be highly skilled in communicating with children (from 2 years), young people and adults.
- Have knowledge and understanding of Scotland's Curriculum and the refreshed [Creative Learning Plan vision, mission, and goals](#).
- Be open minded, creative, and flexible practitioner/s.
- Be committed to collaborative, inclusive practice, ideally having previously worked in schools and/or Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings.
- Be available to attend a Creative Wellbeing Fund Speed Dating Event via Teams on 6th October 2021.
- Be available to work between October 2021 and June 2022, exact times to be negotiated and agreed with each setting.

Creative Costs

Funding of between £12-15,000 will be awarded to the school group's lead applicant and this **must be spent on creative partners' fees**, which may include materials needed for project delivery (excluding equipment) and up to 10% on expenses (travel and subsistence).

Payments to artists will be made by the Local Authority and further detail will be made available once successful applicants are identified.

Planning the project

Once successful project groups have been matched with a creative partner, there will be an initial scoping phase where the creative partner spends time getting to know the group and their context, partners, the learners, and the challenge they want to address before working together to develop ideas and shape a project plan.

During this scoping phase, your job will be to explore the challenge the group has identified with the whole project community – talking with learners, staff, and partners, to really get to know the context, the challenges, individual stories and collective themes.

You may wish to reflect your findings and observations back to the project community. They might then reconsider their challenge, or see it in a new light:

- What initial observations and insights does the creative partner have? Do they shed new light and generate innovative ideas on our challenge?



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- What suggestions and ideas do they have? How can we support our creative partner and work together to improve learner wellbeing?
- Do we need to build in time for co-planning and professional learning?
- What impact do we hope the project will have and how will we evidence this?

Responses to these questions should be used to develop an **outline project plan**, which the lead applicant, a named school, will be required to submit to ES/CS for approval by end November. The lead applicant will be responsible for submitting an end of project report to ES/CS by end August 2022 and creative partners will be required to contribute to this.

Timeline

Call out to school groups	16 th June 2021
Call out to creative partners	9 th August 2021
Q&A CPD Sessions for creative partners	18 th , 25 th August, and 1 st September 2021
Application deadline for school groups	31 st August 2021
Expression of interest deadline for creative partners	10 th September 2021
Successful school groups notified	30 th September 2021
Creative Wellbeing Speed Dating Event	6 th October 2021
Chosen creative partners notified	by mid- October 2021
Develop project plan with school and partners	by end November
Project delivery	by end of June 2022
End of project showcase event	June 2022- date TBC
End of project report	due end August 2022

If you are interested in applying there will be three sessions held in August & September where you can find out more about the fund and gain insights into best practice in working with education settings.

The first of these will introduce the fund and include a Q&A session with Jonathan McLean, Interim Creative Learning Officer, Creative Scotland & Julia Fenby, Education Officer for Creativity, Education Scotland. Sign up link [here](#).

This will be followed by two training sessions ([25th August](#) & [1st September](#)) on topics including Scotland’s Curriculum, learner entitlements, the refreshed Creative Learning Plan, and the importance of developing creativity skills in the classroom.

To note your interest please submit the following:

- A CV & brief overview of your background and experience as an individual or organisation.
- A brief outline of why you would like to be involved, including relevant experience.
- Link to your website or link to recent examples of your work of a similar nature.
- Confirmation that you can be available and able to complete the work between September 2021 and June 2022.



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- Confirmation that you are available for a speed dating/matching event via Teams with school groups on 6th October.
- Confirmation that you/ those involved in project have a PVG check.
- Confirmation that you are willing to be listed as a Creative Partner on the [Creativity Portal](#).
- Confirmation that you are legally resident and able to work in the UK.

Following your submission:

Your expression of interest will be reviewed by a panel comprised of Creative Scotland & Education Scotland colleagues using the **'Becoming A Creative Partner on the Creativity Portal'** criteria of:

- having delivered creative learning or CLPL experiences for at least three years
- having a child protection policy in place
- maintaining up to date Disclosure or PVG status for you/ or your staff

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend a Speed Dating event held via Teams on the afternoon of October 6th where school groups will meet prospective creative partners to aid the matching process.

Please email your expression of interest by Friday 10th September 2021 to Jonathan McLean, Interim Creative Learning Officer, Creative Scotland: jonathan.mclean@creativescotland.com

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