

CREATING A CULTURE OF INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY THROUGH ARTS AND CREATIVITY

Guide for Local Authority Colleagues

The problem

- The focus of the school curriculum is narrow, with many children and young people (CYP) disengaged from education.
- The poorest and most vulnerable children are the hardest hit, with families least able to make up for the lack of access to arts and creative education in schools.
- The marginalisation of arts and creative education in schools risks denying CYP a transformative avenue for expression, confidence, and personal development.

What you can do at a local level

- Prioritise and advocate for the **arts, play, and creative education** to be at the heart of the school curriculum by supporting schools to develop place-based partnerships with cultural institutions, higher education institutions, employers, artists, and performers to build local capacity and opportunities.
- Develop **local strategies and partnerships** to foster the development of arts and creative education and set locally-based approaches that reflect the diversity of local communities, integrating these with a wider strategic, whole-systems approach to tackling systemic problems.
- Explore the potential of **using local assets** such as parks and museums to develop 'year-round' programmes of extracurricular enrichment activities for CYP.
- Work with **families and communities** to harness their potential to develop, design, and deliver cultural and creative programmes.

Evidence-based insights

Due to a lack of funding in state schools, **93%** of children are being excluded from arts and cultural education.

The UK's creative sector contributes nearly **£13 million** to the economy every hour.

Examples of good practice you may wish to explore:

Morecambe Bay Curriculum

By using place-based education to foster understanding of sustainability and empower young people as agents of change, the programme aims to enhance mental and physical health, employment opportunities, the local economy, and community wellbeing.

Theatre Hullabaloo, Play on Prescription and Place to Play

By providing access to creative play and activity sessions, particularly for the most disadvantaged families, the programme aimed to boost the cognitive, social, and emotional development of children and provide support to families by connecting them with local support services.

Helix Art

The charity aims to use arts, cultural, and historical projects to develop the agency and voice of CYP and create a renewed sense of community. It aims to break down social barriers to arts involvement and foster inclusion and social justice.

Echoes of Resilience: Refugee Voices in Art

The project provided a safe, creative space for refugees to share their stories and express themselves artistically. It combined tailored curriculum workshops, robust safeguarding, and dedicated family support.

Check out the innovative approaches outlined in this briefing and **consider implementing these practices into your local area/constituency.**



Scan the QR Code for the report

Please share this guide and start a discussion in your organisation about how we can all play our role in building a country that works for all children and young people.