

# **Creative Scotland and Education Scotland – An Action Plan 2022-23**

## **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 continued to collaborate on initiatives, projects and actions whilst embracing a fast-changing education and arts landscape. The unforeseen impact of the COVID-19 pandemic required a rapid rethinking of education provision and had an adverse effect on children and young people's health and wellbeing. Looking ahead, the national conversation on education reform and Hayward Review of Qualifications and Assessment promise future radical change for education in Scotland.

Through the successes and challenges faced, 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 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 state of continuous change in education and wider society 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**, 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. Creativity played an essential role in the pandemic with practitioners and learners rapidly adopting new, innovative approaches to teaching and learning. We therefore believe a continued 3-year agreement is vital to:

- Ensure creativity is embedded across education, and that it is recognised, articulated and valued in the national conversation and education reform.
- Create a secure framework with longer term planning horizons that accounts for change across the education 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. They 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><b>A. Learners' health and wellbeing is improved through creativity and arts experiences.</b></p>                            | <p>The pandemic highlighted the essential need to prioritise learners' health and wellbeing and has strengthened understanding of it being a responsibility of all, and vital in supporting learners' readiness to learn.</p> <p>We will achieve this outcome by promoting and facilitating creative partnerships and creative learning experiences that specifically support children &amp; young people's health and wellbeing.</p>  |
| <p><b>B. Learners are more confident and able to articulate their creativity skills and can apply them in all contexts.</b></p> | <p>Creativity is an essential skill; it is identified as one of 12 <b>meta-skills</b> by Skills Development Scotland in <b>Skills 4.0</b> and is integral to <b>Developing the Young Workforce</b>, 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 &amp; young people increasingly recognise, articulate, value, and apply their creativity skills.</p>  |
| <p><b>C. High quality cultural and expressive arts experiences are more widely accessible to all learners.</b></p>              | <p>As demonstrated in <b>A Culture Strategy for Scotland</b>, arts and culture are key to Scotland's future prosperity. The answer to realising this ambition, lies in ensuring cultural and expressive arts experiences for Scotland's learners are of a high quality, and any barriers to access and participation are removed.</p> <p>We will achieve this outcome by better connecting the arts and cultural sectors with education settings, collaborating on ways to inspire, empower and support children &amp; 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, involving learners in this way also builds their skills 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 and experiences, and for those leading them.

We will achieve this outcome by inspiring school and system leaders and practitioners to effectively engage children & young people and continuing to engage with learners to ensure their views are influencing our partnership working.

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**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 curriculum innovation.

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

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### 3 Programme of work 2022/23

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><b>Creative Learning Plan (CLP) Steering Group</b></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 <b>Creative Learning Network</b> 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"> <li>• Implementation of the refreshed Creative Learning Plan</li> <li>• Ensuring strategic influence at a national and/or local level</li> <li>• Ensuring the Creative Learning Plan is aligned with wider policy context and national strategic objectives</li> <li>• Advising on the forward direction of the Creative Learning Plan, related national events, evaluation and programme activity</li> <li>• Responding to project evaluation and making recommendations for future actions</li> <li>• Providing strategic support to the National Creative Learning Network (NCLN)</li> </ul>	<p>A, B, C, D &amp; E</p>

Action	Overview	Related Outcomes
<p><b>National Creative Learning Network (NCLN)</b></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 and is regularly engaged in consultations on relevant national developments.</p>	A, B, C, D & E
<p><b>Creative Learning Network Fund</b></p> <p>Delivering fund offering grants of up to £12k per local authority to support Creative Learning Networks (CLNs) to implement Scotland's Creative Learning Plan.</p>	<p>In 2022-23 a twelfth year of Creative Learning Networks (CLN) funding was made available.</p> <p>Delivery dates: November 2022 – June 2023.</p> <p>Subsequent years of funding are subject to budget availability.</p> <p>CLNs have played a vital role in the delivery of Scotland's Creative Learning Plan since its publication in 2013. Education Scotland and Creative Scotland are committed to continuing their support of local authorities across Scotland to continue to build capacity for creativity.</p> <p>Local authorities have been invited to submit proposals for a twelfth funding year. Fund criteria continue to reflect our refreshed partnership agreement and the new narratives resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>We 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>Minor changes to this year's fund include an updated outcome which recognises that learners' mental health is interdependent with their emotional, social and physical health. In addition, grant recipients are required to include a digital element to their reporting, i.e., a 3-5-minute video which showcases the impacts of CLN programmes for learners, practitioners and partners – helping them unlock their digital creativity and helping us better tell the story of the impacts of the CLN fund.</p>	A, B, C, D & E

Action	Overview	Related Outcomes
<p><b>Creative Learning Plan Resource</b></p> <p>Developing an online resource for all stakeholders on the 'how' of creativity, allowing easy access to good practice examples and relevant documents.</p>	<p>Work is underway to develop a new online resource for the Creative Learning Plan which will house the refreshed vision, mission and goals of the Plan and empower practitioners to embed more creativity in teaching and learning. It will include examples of inspiring practice and will point stakeholders to a range of relevant resources.</p> <p>Workshops with ES, CS and SG input to shape the resource were held in 2022.</p> <p>The new resource will be located on Education Scotland's website. Content and design are being worked on by both ES &amp; CS colleagues with a planned launch in 2023.</p>	<p>A, B, C, D &amp; E</p>
<p><b>Creativity Portal</b></p> <p>Maintaining the portal.</p>	<p>The <b>Creativity Portal</b> 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, examples of effective practice and links to a range of quality-assured creative partners.</p>	<p>C</p>
<p><b>Examining the findings of three reports into artform delivery in Scottish schools</b></p> <p>Looking at barriers and challenges children and young people face, to improve their engagement and career opportunities within the arts sector.</p>	<p>Research Scotland was commissioned by Creative Scotland to lead on a review of three reports into artform delivery in Scottish schools</p> <p><b>Mapping Contemporary Visual Art and Design Education in Scotland</b></p> <p><b>Research into Theatre, Dance and Drama Use in Schools</b></p> <p><b>Craft and Making Education in Scotland Today</b></p> <p>The focus of this review is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barriers to learners' engagement with arts and creativity at school and beyond – and learning from how these have been approached in different situations.</li> <li>• Barriers to engagement between the professional arts and creative sector and schools and the education sector – and learning about what works in working together.</li> <li>• Recommendations and actions that would strengthen engagement between the professional arts and creative sector and the schools and the education sector.</li> </ul> <p>Education Scotland, Creative Scotland and Scottish Government colleagues will scope the potential to take forward the learning and recommendations from the reports and this review in addition to responding to National Partnership for Culture (NPC) recommendations.</p>	<p>E</p>

Action	Overview	Related Outcomes
<p><b>Forestopia</b></p> <p>Supporting the adaptation of the <b>Daydream Believers</b> Creative Thinking Challenge 'Forestopia', into a suitable resource for primary schools.</p>	<p>This grant funding will support consultation work with primary school practitioners and partners to adapt the resource for primary and to showcase learning as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autumn term: Daydream Believers to work with six schools on consultation and adaptation of the resource.</li> <li>• Spring term: Participating primary schools deliver Forestopia challenge with P5-7 learners.</li> <li>• Summer term: DB Showcases the learning and impacts for primary, secondary and HE learners.</li> </ul> <p>Participating school staff will benefit through involvement in a professional development opportunity and be part of an inspired and committed community of practice.</p> <p>Learners will engage in inspiring, creative and self-directed learning opportunities and benefit from collaboration with other participating learners at primary, secondary and university level from across Scotland who will be working on the same challenge.</p> <p>Daydream Believers will adapt its pre-existing self-evaluation app 'Stellar' for primary users and will offer CLPL in the summer term for teachers interested in taking up the Forestopia challenge in 2023-24.</p> <p>They will gather evidence of impacts and outcomes for practitioners, learners and partners.</p>	<p>A, B, C, D &amp; E</p>
<p><b>National Creativity Event</b></p> <p>Planning and delivery of annual partnership event from Scotland's Creative Learning Plan Partners and the National Creative Learning Network.</p>	<p>April 2023 (dates 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>A two-day in person event (one conference day and one professional development day for the NCLN), of learning, discussion and inspirational sessions for leaders, practitioners and learners at all levels and in all contexts.</p>	<p>A, B, C, D &amp; E</p>
<p><b>Kaleidoscope</b></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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