

The Arts Pledge in Context: Widening Participation

A Class Act
The Sutton Trust
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EVIDENCE REPORT
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The Arts
Pledge

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From acting in an award-winning film to producing a number one album, getting to the top of the creative industries is a dream for many young people. But access to such careers, both behind the scenes and in front of an audience, is currently far from equal. For young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds in particular, there are major barriers.

And who can access these careers really does matter. Art plays a vital role in shaping the society we live in. When those from better-off backgrounds dominate the creative industries, it is their stories and ideas that we all see told through TV shows, films, plays, music or dance. The world is shown back to us through their lens, with an impact on the cultural and social life of the country. These positions are also highly sought after, giving those with a creative flair an outlet for their passions and talents. But for young people from poorer homes, the domination of the creative industries by the better-off can make these fields seem 'elitist' and out of reach.

By working directly with teachers and leaders in schools, TheArtsPledge.com creates networked opportunities that enable all children and young people to access high quality Arts and creative education and gain wider experiences of the Arts, regardless of their socio-economic background.

Through their membership of TheArtsPledge.com schools are incentivised and supported to offer creative subjects and 'beyond the curriculum' activities for children and young people.

Our aim is for all children to experience creative activities in each year of their education that provide access to and promote future opportunities in Higher Education and creative careers.

LINKS to sources and publications:

A Class Act The Sutton Trust, 13th November 2024