

The Arts in Schools: Foundations for the Future



EVIDENCE REPORT
THE ARTS PLEDGE
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The Arts
Pledge

The Arts in Schools: Foundations for the Future report published by A New Direction in March 2023 marked four decades since the publication of *The Arts in Schools: Principles, practice and provision* by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in 1982.

The latest report clearly captures how the world has changed dramatically since 1982. 'There is still not a universal entitlement to the arts in schools. Provision beyond the minimum National Curriculum requirements relies on committed school and multi-academy trust leaders believing it is important, and 'brave teachers' to provide a rich and ambitious curriculum. School leaders who make space for the arts believe that education is about even more than achieving good grades: they are thinking about the whole child, and the school as (and within) a community.

Key findings:

'Arts subjects and experiences have an evidenced role in contributing to improving outcomes for children and young people, providing them with skills for life and skills for work'.

'Despite all that we know about the value of arts subjects for children and young people, there is a lack of value ascribed to the arts within the state education system in England'.

'However important the school offer from professional arts organisations, its function is to enhance what happens in schools and contribute to improving outcomes for children and young people'. Greater collaboration is needed between the professional arts sector and education to make this more 'easily available and relevant to schools and responsive to their needs'

Schools at the heart of their communities: Schools should also be able to respond more to local circumstances, engage with civic society. More agency for teachers would enable meaningful partnerships to be created within localities, ensuring that 'schools can benefit from the creativity and resources available' that reflect 'the local economy, cultures, arts provision, employment needs and opportunities', and contribute to thriving local communities.

LINKS to sources and publications.

The Arts in Schools initiative has been funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, delivered by A New Direction and was supported by the former Bridge organisation network during 2022/3.

You can access the original report and all the project resources here:

- [The Arts in Schools](#) report
- [Executive Summary of The Arts in Schools](#) report
- [The Arts in Schools 40-year Timeline](#)