



The Arts Pledge

EVIDENCE REPORT
THE ARTS PLEDGE
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UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education

Implementation Guidance

Published by UNESCO in 2025, this guidance supports the implementation of the **UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education**, adopted by Ministers of Culture and Education in 2024 following an extensive international consultation process.

The publication offers a compelling global case for placing culture and the arts at the heart of education. It describes culture and arts education not as an optional addition to learning, but as an integral part of inclusive, equitable and high-quality education. UNESCO highlights its contribution to creativity, critical thinking, self-expression, belonging, cultural understanding and the social and emotional development of learners, as well as its importance in preparing young people to navigate technological, environmental and societal change.

The guidance is particularly valuable because it moves from principle to implementation. It organises its recommendations around five strategic goals:

- access, inclusion and equity;
- contextual, high-quality, lifelong and life-wide learning;
- cultural diversity and critical engagement;
- skills for sustainable futures; and
- the institutionalisation and valorisation of culture and arts education.

Alongside these goals, the publication explores the conditions needed to create lasting change, including effective leadership and policy, investment, professional development, partnerships, appropriate use of digital technologies and AI, and stronger approaches to research, evaluation and assessment. Practical questions and examples from 52 countries help schools, cultural organisations and policymakers consider how these principles might be translated into their own contexts.

For The Arts Pledge, the guidance provides an important international foundation. Its emphasis on cultural participation as a right, rather than a privilege, closely reflects our commitment to ensuring that every child and young person can experience high-quality arts and cultural learning. It also reinforces the importance of moving beyond isolated activities towards sustained, inclusive and strategically led provision across the life of a school.

[Read the UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education: Implementation Guidance](#)

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