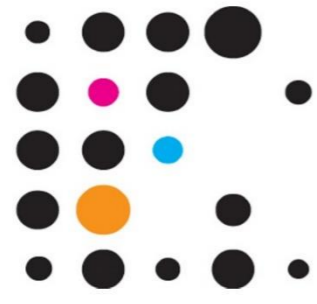


Why engage with Scotland's

CREATIVE LEARNING NETWORKS



"I was almost sick in my handbag when you said that creativity is not creating 25 of the same, because that is what I would do, I understand that now, that letting go of control!" (Teacher, Aberdeen 16/17)

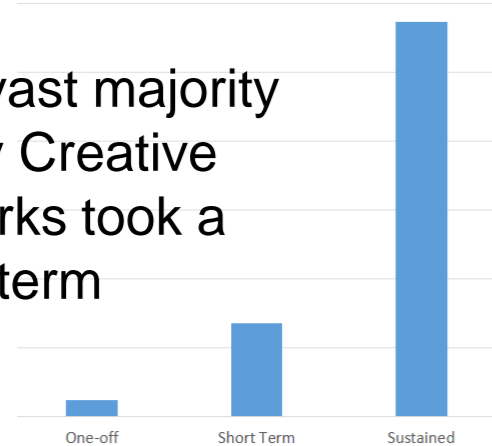
"This (Training) has shown me that I am entirely capable of delivering lessons which are more creative. My class were able to engage with the tasks and I was very inspired with how much they learned. I will definitely be using these ideas in future lessons." (Teacher, East Dunbartonshire 16/17)

Are creativity skills recognised, articulated and valued by your practitioners and learners?

Three Test of Change schools saw a significant impact in their school environments, with pupils being able to clearly articulate their understanding of creativity skills and the impact these have on their learning and their lives. Evaluations show that creative learning approaches have contributed to increases in pupil confidence, resilience and leadership. (Angus 16/17)

Investigating Creativity Through Practitioner Enquiry resulted in meaningful and measured impact in each of the participating teachers' schools, affecting not only the pedagogical practices of participants, but also those of the colleagues and senior management in their settings. (Borders 16/17)

In 2017-18 the vast majority of the activity by Creative Learning Networks took a sustained, long term approach



Creative Learning Networks:

- deliver high quality learning activities to increasing numbers of practitioners and young people across the country.
- develop and deliver career-long professional learning (CLPL) opportunities which support the development of teacher professional learning.
- contribute significantly to the development of skills for life, learning and work.
- ensure that creativity skills are recognised, articulated and valued by participants, and increasingly, at a strategic level across local authorities.
- contribute significantly to a shared understanding of creativity and creativity skills
- contribute to the increasing number of schools including creativity as a school improvement priority and the development of creativity across a range of curriculum areas.
- broaden the range of partners involved in creativity and creativity skills.
- work directly with school practitioners providing advice, support and challenge.

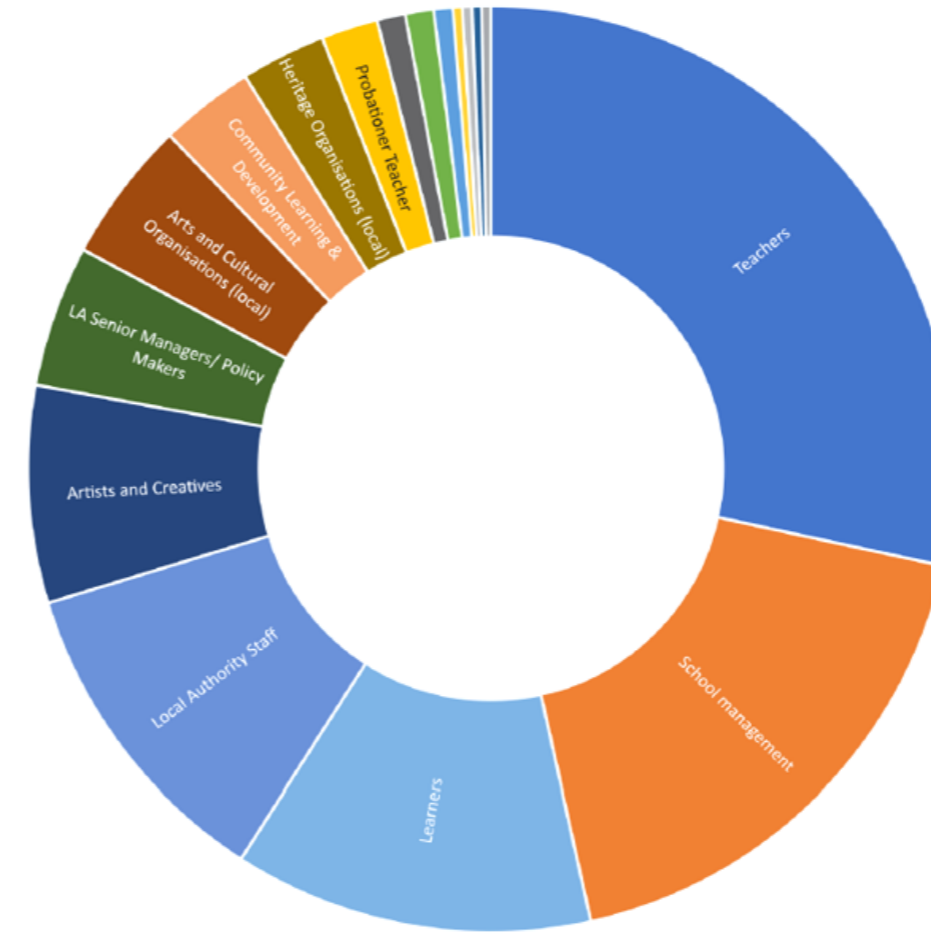
(CLN independent Annual Report 2017-18)

Do your learners and practitioners engage in dialogue about the development of creativity skills?

At the *Schools of the Future* conference, *Creative Champions* helped to open constructive dialogue allowing staff to focus on the positive aspects of their role, acknowledging barriers but not letting them get in the way. The evaluations highlighted the importance of pupils leading their learning and the power of the school working together to improve the environment in which pupils and staff were working. (S. Lanarkshire, 16/17)

The 'Talking Tubs' resource allows the generation of creative questioning and discussion with early learning practitioners and partners to support children to understand both the local context and the opportunities that are available locally. This further encourages family learning by allowing parents and employers to go into settings and explore the roles they perform in the local community, supporting children to developing curiosity in the family learning tasks. (Moray 17/18)

In 2017-18 the Creative Learning Networks delivered the equivalent of 14,691 days of activity with an expectation of impact to teachers, head teachers, learners, local authority pact, to staff and a broad range of partners.



Is creativity practically applied as a higher order thinking skill?

Several pupils who usually struggled with word-based competencies were able to communicate highly sophisticated understanding through their choice of visuals. Demonstrations of comprehension through digital visual literacy were also in evidence from high performing learners. Pupils unanimously reported that they felt the visually-based home-work was more relevant and more enjoyable. (East Dunbartonshire 16/17)

The *Collaborate//Educate* training programme sought to address a disconnect and lack of clarity of roles between teachers and creative practitioners and a gap in knowledge and understanding of the importance of creativity skills across the curriculum in creative practitioners. Projects covered minibeasts and their habitats, global goals, Victorians, literacy with pirates and projects that focused on enabling individuality. Teachers' perspectives of creativity shifted from being intangible and only linked to expressive arts. For probationary teachers, this acted as their Pair Project, a requirement of their qualification, a complementary CLPL rather than an addition. (Aberdeen 17/18)

"Creativity benefits other areas of the curriculum and helps to teach and develop skills that children can use in other aspects of learning." (Aberdeen 17/18)

"The activity was different to how I would normally approach learning times tables as it was very active, and all children were very involved in their learning at all times. There was a huge impact on the children's learning.....all children benefited and became more confident" (Teacher, East Dunbartonshire 16/17)

Creative Learning Networks are the key delivery partners for Scotland's National Creative Learning Plan

"Loved the activity, great way to make us think about working as a team and how to design activities with just the right amount of challenge and uncertainty. Very interesting discussion about the need to ask for permission. Made me focus more on children's participation in their learning in the last few weeks of term." (Autonomous or Automated participant)

"The session illustrated very well how a theme such as 'creativity' transfers seamlessly across learning experiences 3-18 and indeed beyond, into life and work." (ShareTeachMeet participant 17/18)

Are partnerships used effectively to deliver highly engaging creative learning?

A weave workshop was delivered in association with Future Textiles, Dumfries House. Pupils were shown weave techniques used in industry, exemplars of work from college students and from industry professionals and experienced two different methods to produce cloth. They received individual guidance from experts to improve their work and were encouraged to think creatively, using materials donated from industry. (N. Ayrshire 17/18)

Children built a rapport with the gallery staff and became familiar with the setting. The building workshops supported social and collaborative learning, shared problem solving, turn taking and communications skills. The workshops with the isle schools facilitated strong parental engagement, families collected materials together, walking on the beach or farm and then attended the workshop at the Pier, themselves learning about contemporary art and helping the children to build with what they had found. Feedback indicates that some children who found it difficult to maintain focus were fully invested in the process. (Orkney 17/18)

Highlights 2017/18

To date our work has contributed to the development of a common language and shared understanding of creativity and creativity skills across Scotland, and to the number of schools including creativity as a school improvement priority.

Our National event: Delivering Equity – How creativity can contribute to closing the poverty related attainment gap, was held in Glasgow in November 2017. The event brought together 120 local authority staff from across Scotland to explore poverty through the lens of creativity. Dialogue and solution finding activities were informed by the challenging testimony of one young man’s struggle through the education system, and Professor Sue Ellis’s inspiring model for engaging children and young people in their learning.

Action Research: Creativity and Executive Functions – The Art of Learning

This two-year Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded project focused on primary teacher professional development in teaching and learning through the arts whilst exploring the connection between executive functions, creativity skills and learning. It was a partnership project between Education Scotland, Creative Scotland, Creativity Culture and Education, and 11 primary schools from North, South and East Ayrshire.

The project had a positive impact on many of the senior leaders, teachers and artists involved who reported increased confidence in using creative learning across the curriculum, and learners, who reported increased engagement with and enjoyment of learning. A core set of general principles or ‘Things that Work’ was drawn out and made available on the National Improvement Hub.

Looking Forward

Going forwards, our attention is increasingly turning to the entirety of young people’s learning experiences - we need to make sure our offer to them is relevant, inspiring and fills them with confidence about their skills and future possibilities.

We need to support this, not only through creative teaching and creative learning, but also through creative leadership and curriculum planning. Creativity is the skill of the future, and is essential for our young people to thrive in this fast-changing world.

Next steps

- Continue to provide opportunities that challenge and develop practitioners to engage with creativity and creativity skills
- Continue to extend the contribution creativity makes to the development of skills for life, learning and work
- Continue to extend the understanding of the contribution creativity makes to attainment and achievement

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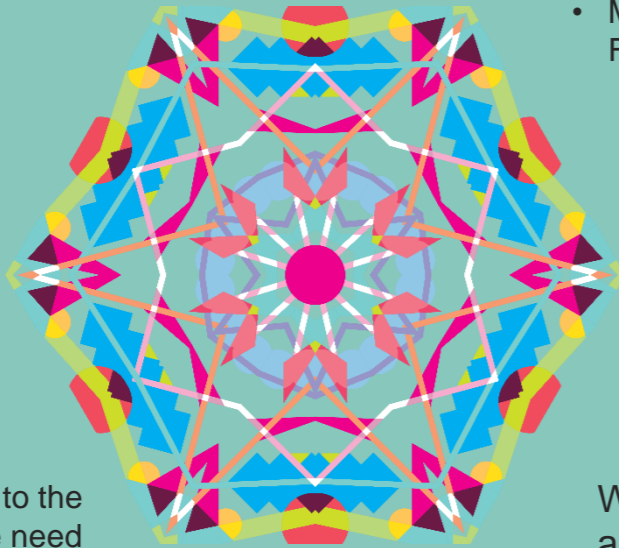
Ken Edwards, Skills Development Scotland
ken.edwards@sds.co.uk

This year we welcomed our New Chair

Christine Pollock CBE took up the role of Chair of Scotland’s Creative Learning Plan in June 2018. Christine is a Board Member of Skills Development Scotland, and a former Director of Learning and Leisure Services in North Lanarkshire Council responsible for statutory education, early years provision, community learning and development, library and cultural services, sport and leisure.

As a partnership, we have supported others to embed creativity in their work

- Publications**
 - Creativity, Enterprise and Employability: Skills for Learning, Life and Work, a Nutshell Guide - the National Parent Forum of Scotland
 - Our Creative Journey – Care Inspectorate
- Conferences**
 - Early Years Leaders Conference, Glasgow City Council
 - Education Scotland all staff, curriculum and corporate conferences
- Consultations**
 - A Culture Strategy for Scotland
 - Empowering Schools
- Briefings**
 - Atlantic Rim educational systems summit
 - Education and Skills Committee
 - British Irish Council Creative Industries workstream
 - Creative Symposium opening, Glasgow College
 - Making Matters schools exhibition opening, Fruitmarket Gallery



Support and Resources

We offer support, resources, bespoke events and workshops for strategic level networks and partners to enable them to:

- Deliver transformational and creative change
- Support delivery of creativity and employability skills
- Support delivery of creative learning, teaching, assessment and achievement
- Build creative, effective collaboration between cultures and sectors

We highlighted this support in an offer made to the Regional Improvement Collaboratives.

Creativity resources on the National Improvement Hub

A rich selection of learning and improvement resources is now available on the National Improvement Hub including improvement approaches, evaluation tools, practical activities, films and animations: <http://bit.ly/NIHcreativity>

Creativity Portal

Scotland’s one-stop shop for creative learning, creative teaching and creative change www.creativityportal.org.uk

National Creative Learning Network

Comprised of local authority creative learning leads based in local authorities across Scotland.

The Creative Learning Plan Partners are: Association of Directors of Education Scotland; College Development Network; Creative Scotland; Education Scotland; General Teaching Council Scotland; Scottish Qualifications Authority and Skills Development Scotland.

Overall Aim: ‘For our actions to result in improved outcomes for children, young people and their families through engagement with creativity’.

Purpose: ‘To promote creativity as essential to improvement across every aspect of education, and to collate, contextualise and disseminate examples of effective practice and research evidence of the impact of creativity on outcomes for learners’.

This group consists of representatives from Education Scotland, Creative Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, and local authority Creative Learning Network leads. Through our work, we have continued to ensure that creativity skills are recognised, articulated and valued by participants, and increasingly, at a strategic level across local authorities.

The Creative Learning Steering Group leads on the implementation of Scotland’s Creative Learning Plan and its two key themes: ‘Creativity and Employability’ and ‘Creativity in Learning, Teaching, Assessment and Achievement’.

Creative Learning Steering Group

Our Vision for Creative Learning in Scotland

At the heart of our Creative Learning Plan is this, our vision for a more creative Scotland: to shape our future as a country, we need to create and be creative.

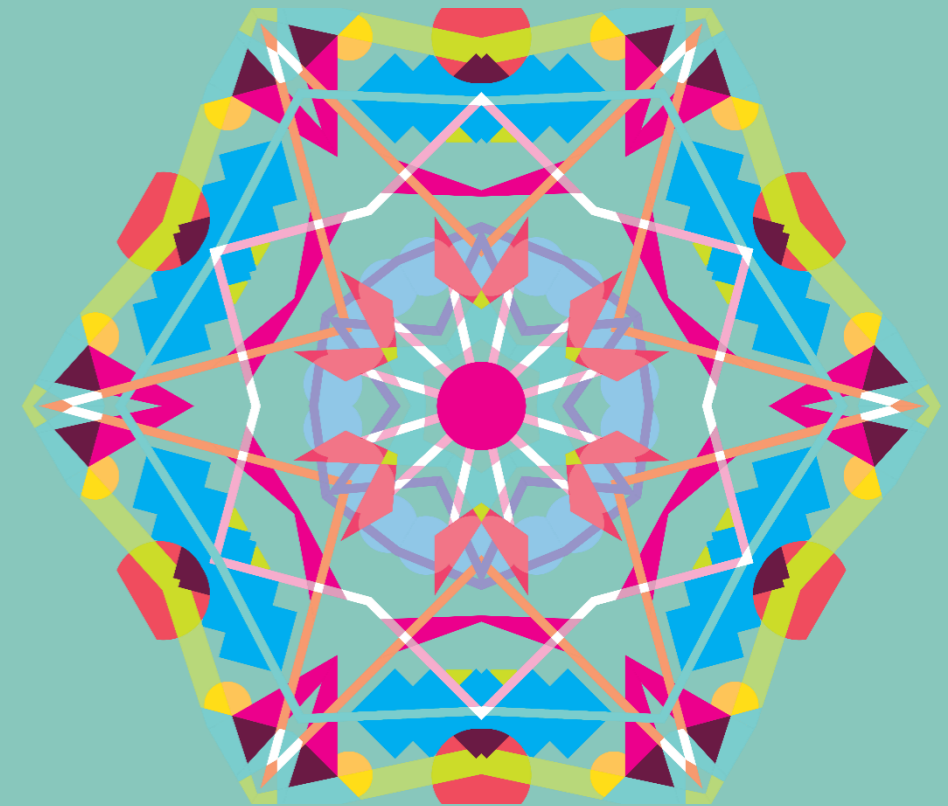
We need to generate the ideas that will allow us to rise to the challenges of a global economy and an endangered environment. We need to be able to invent and develop our science and technology. We need to be able to write the poems and stories that reflect and enrich who we are. We need to express that through the visual arts, music, through theatre and dance, through film. And in doing so, we need to eradicate the false demarcation lines between the expressive arts and every other subject. Creative learning and teaching is the most fulfilling route to both deep learning and a rounded adulthood.

We need to feel confident in our right and ability to influence change, that we are people of potential with the courage, attributes and skills that make that potential a reality.

This is what creativity is: the capacity to generate ideas that have value to the individual, to look at familiar things with a fresh eye, to examine problems with an open mind, make connections, learn from mistakes and use the imagination to explore new possibilities. Ultimately creativity is the ability to make the world anew, to shape the future and enrich the here and now.



- Curiosity**
 - Inquire
 - Observe
 - Research
 - Open-mindedness**
 - Listen
 - Think Differently
 - Explore
 - Problem Solving**
 - Identify
 - Respond
 - Present Solutions
 - Imagination**
 - Have ideas
 - Select from the best
 - Invent
- Through the partnership we have been able to expand upon the original definition of creativity and work to embed an understanding of the four key creativity skills and how these are applied across learning contexts. The inclusion of indicators for evaluating creativity can now be found in frameworks such as Education Scotland’s ‘How Good is Our School?’ (Edition 4), allowing all practitioners, whatever their context, to recognise how learners can identify, develop and apply their creativity skills:
- ## Creativity Skills



Creativity is the skill of the future

Scotland’s Creative Learning Plan

